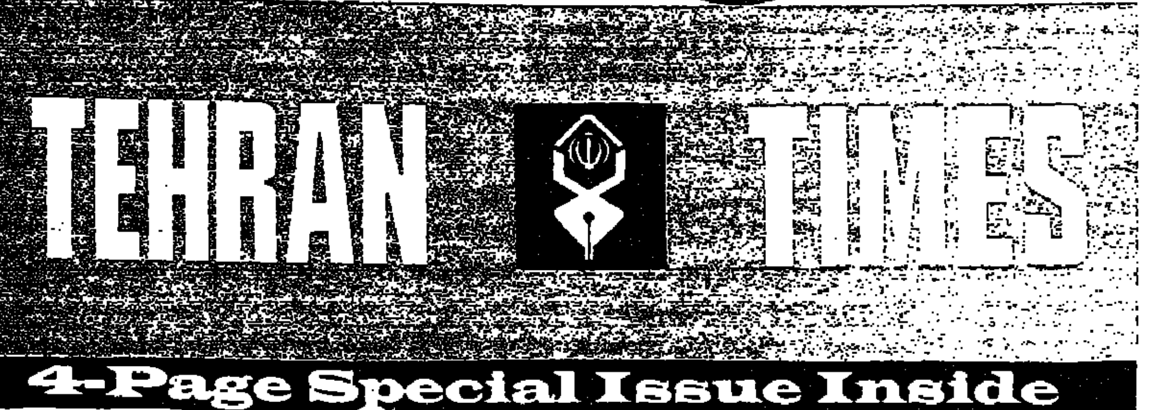




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FBI Investigating Whether Classified Information Given to Israelis

DETROIT — The FBI is investigating a military engineer's statements that for about 10 years he inadvertently provided Israeli officers with classified information about U.S. Army defense systems, according to an FBI affidavit.

The Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press said Wednesday that the FBI is investigating statements by David A. Tenenbaum, 39, of Southfield, Michigan. Tenenbaum is a mechanical engineer for the combat vehicle team at the U.S. Army tank automotive and armaments command in Warren, Michigan.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Israel Orders Demolition of UN Refugee Building

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel has ordered the demolition of a UN building meant o serve as a school for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, saying the structure was built without a permit, Israeli officials said Wednesday.

"This is a violation of agreements by the Palestinians not to grant building permits in areas outside their jurisdiction," Lieutenant Peter Lerner told AFP.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

China Attacks U.S. Human Rights

BEIJING — China attacked the United States for its criticism of human rights abuses abroad Wednesday and in turn highlighted high U.S. rates of child murder and child suicide.

Citing a recent study, a signed commentary in the official *China Daily* said five times more children under the age of 15 are likely to be killed in the U.S. than in 25 other developed countries.

It also quoted a study by the U.S. government-sponsored center for disease control as saying that between 1950 and 1990, the child murder rate tripled and the child suicide rate quadrupled in the U.S.

"Had the U.S. government focused all its attention on the children's situation at home ... in the past years, the rates of child murder and suicide would not have been so shocking," the commentary said.

"The fact is that year after year, the U.S. government has persisted in other countries' human rights situation and turned a blind eye to problems in its own backyard."

It denounced the U.S. State Department's series of annual human rights reports as hypocritical, saying they "wantonly" attack other countries' problems without mentioning domestic shortcomings.

The commentary said: "The release of the human rights report will only make the U.S. a standing joke in the world and poison the international co-operative atmosphere in the field of human rights."

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is due to arrive in China on Monday for a two-day official visit.

(AFP)

Habibi, Stephanopouos Discuss Tehran-Athens Ties

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi visited Greece's President Costis Stephanopouos in Athens yesterday.

Stephanopouos and Habibi exchanged views on bilateral and regional and international developments, diplomatic sources told IRNA.

Habibi is to meet Greek Defense Minister Akis Tsohhatzopoulos and leaders of Greek political parties this evening.

Earlier, after laying a wreath at the Soldier's unknown tomb in Sintagma Square, in the heart of Athens, Habibi went to see president of the Greek Parliament Apostolos Kaklamanis.

The two sides discussed bilateral ties and regional developments in the Balkans, the Caucuses and the Middle East.

Kaklamanis said Habibi conveyed to him the invitation by the speaker of the Iranian Majlis to visit Iran. I will very soon visit Iran, he said.

In his meeting, the Iranian vice-president was accompanied by Abbas Ahmad Akhoundi, minister of housing and urban development, Hossein Noqreh Kar-e Shirazi, first deputy minister of commerce, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's ambassador to Athens Mehdi Khandaqabadi and other officials.

Visiting First Vice-President of Iran, Hassan Habibi, met Greek Premier Costas Simitis Tuesday evening and discussed bilateral ties, the situation in the Middle East, joint initiatives to resolve problems and multi-lateral cooperation.

The visit of the vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Habibi, is his first to Greece. The aim of this visit is to examine the ties of the two countries, the developments in the Middle East,


HABIBI

way in which there could be a common position to resolve some issues, Simitis told reporters after their meeting.

The talks were very friendly and we have realized that in many areas there could be a joint action, for example in the Black-Sea region and to confront problems in the region, said Simitis.

The talks between Habibi and Simitis were originally scheduled for 60 minutes, but the two leaders talked for 100 minutes, which, analysts said, verified the interest of both sides to promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation.

On his part, Habibi extended his warm greetings to the people of Greece and underlined the historic ties between the peoples of Greece and Iran.

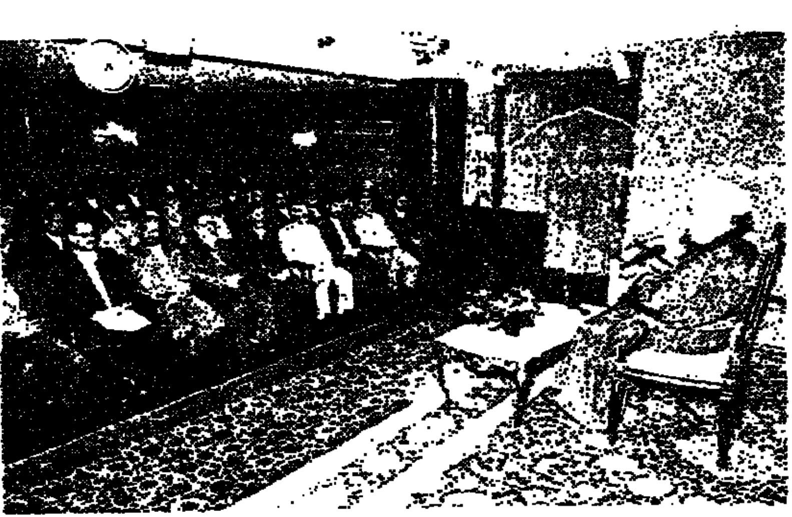
Habibi said they discussed Greek-Iranian ties and regional and international developments.

We examined the very good political relations between the two countries, Habibi said, adding that officials from both countries will discuss ways to boost economic and commercial ties in the next two days.

Simitis said he believed the two countries can develop their economic ties and it would be useful to have regular contacts between

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Social Justice, Key Factor in 25-Year Plan



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Wednesday said that with its huge natural and vast energy resources, cultural instruments and outstanding geographical position, Iran can be a good supporter for implementation of the New Islamic Civilization Project for the 1400 Hejira.

Receiving the officials in charge of the project, President Rafsanjani said that social justice should be observed as a key factor in preparing the development plan for the next 25 years.

President said that qualitative

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Alliance Launches Attack on Taleban

GHORBAND, Afghanistan — Forces loyal to a Shia Muslim faction have attacked the Taleban militia northwest of the Afghan capital Kabul, Taleban commanders and residents said here Wednesday.

The offensive by the Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, a member of the alliance opposing the fundamentalist Taleban, has ended speculation that the party may be wavering in its support of the alliance which has recently suffered massive territorial losses.

Taleban fighters last week made gains bringing them closer to the town of Bamiyan, the isolated mountain stronghold of the faction leader, Karim Khalili.

"Khalili men attacked our positions in Dara-i-Turkman on Tuesday morning," Mir Mohammad Zaman Akhundzada, Taleban third-in-command at the valley frontline said.

Dara-i-Turkman, a small side valley to the south of Ghorband and around 150 kilometers (93 miles) north-west of Kabul, provides access to Hezb-i-Wahdat's Bamiyan stronghold.

The commander added that jets belonging to the Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam — who controls much of northern Afghanistan — also repeatedly bombarded Taleban frontlines in the Ghorband Valley Tuesday.

Reports of casualties from the attack were not immediately available, but Taleban commanders said three of their soldiers were injured during the capture of five rival fighters.

(AFP)

Russia Needed to Achieve Peace Process

MOSCOW — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday stressed Russia's crucial role in the Middle East peace process and said Moscow had agreed to intensify its role in the region.

Arafat, who was on the second day of a two-day visit to Moscow, said he had an "acute need" of Russia to "overcome the difficulties which block the (Middle East) peace process."

Speaking at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, he said he had agreed with President Boris Yeltsin and with the minister on Tuesday to "intensify Russia's role in the peace process."

Russia is the co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process launched in 1991, along with the United States, although its role has been largely eclipsed by Washington.

Primakov said Wednesday he believed Russia was now prepared to actively fulfill its role as co-sponsor.

In a barely veiled message to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Primakov said that "those who come to power must respect the accords that were signed by their predecessor. It is one of the main prerequisites for the evolution of the peace process."

(Contd on Pg. 14)

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In the Name of God

Surely the vilest of animals in Allah's sight are those who disbelieve, then they would not believe.

(HOLY QORAN) (8:55)

OPINION

U.S.-European Trade War: Opportunity for WTO to Test Its Capability

Talks between the European Commission and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Tuesday failed to produce a deal to avoid full-scale clash at the World Trade Organization (WTO). As a result the WTO will formally nominate a formal dispute panel to rule on the compatibility of the so-called Helms-Burton legislation with international trade rules.

The dispute panel will be the first test of how the WTO will work in the post-Cold War era.

The history of international relations during the past century has shown that in the absence of an international body, chaos will prevail in the world. Historians believe that the absence of a powerful international regulating body has been one of the reasons behind the outbreak of the two world wars.

It is generally believed that in the absence of a regulating body, balance of power will work as the main mechanism to maintain the world peace.

With the dissipation of ideological rivalries between Liberalism and Communism, the arena of world has drastically become economic with commercial and economic rivalries as its main characteristics.

In the context of the emerging world order Europe doesn't need the backing of the U.S. as much as it used to during the Cold War. The U.S. for its part feels that it can unleash its forces to dominate the world because it is no more confronted with Communism.

But Europe and other U.S. economic rivals—despite being its strategic allies—can tolerate U.S. commercial irredentism to a certain extent.

The Helms-Burton and d'Amato legislations have extraterritorial characteristics. The implementation of these laws will be tantamount to direct interference in internal affairs of other countries. This is why Europe, Japan, Canada, Russia, China, India, and several other countries have strongly opposed these laws.

The post-Cold War world requires specific international measures to regulate the emerging world order. The UN has thus far failed to adapt itself to the requirements of the post-Cold War era. However, the WTO can fill up the lacuna created by the UN failure in certain issue-areas, specifically those relating to trade.

The U.S. may invoke its national security requirements as grounds for not cooperating with the WTO and to withdraw from bilateral negotiations. The WTO must be very careful in its first test. Today, national security is intertwined with national interests. Under no circumstances can the U.S. national security requirements be a ground for not cooperating with the WTO because the same ground applies to other countries.

The menace of trade war to the world peace is more serious today than that of the nuclear weapons. The WTO can and should play its part in thwarting this threat. The U.S.-European dispute will be a good opportunity for the WTO to examine its capability in maintaining the world peace.

Mid-Winter Counting of Migratory Birds, 26 Aquatic Species Sighted

TABRIZ, East Azarbaijan — Experts at the Organization for Protection of Environment of West Azarbaijan Province announced here Tuesday that they had completed the mid winter count up of the migratory birds.

The experts said that there were 20,000 migratory birds at the lakes of the province, of which 26 species belonged to the aquatic and semi aquatic species.

The experts say the migratory birds usually spend their winters in the land-locked waters of the province.

The Qurigol Lake of Bostanabad, located 42 kilometers east of Tabriz, serves as a sanctuary for the migratory birds.

Abulfazl Sabeti, an evironmental expert said the relatively non-frigid weather conditions this year has made it possible for the experts to identify the types of aquatic birds. (IRNA)

Habibi Felicitates New Premier of Pakistan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi sent a felicitation message to the new Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif for his appointment to the post.

According to IRNA, Habibi expressed hope that the friendly relations between the two neighboring countries, which enjoy firm religious, cultural and historical bonds, would witness further promotion of bilateral ties.

President: Role of Research in Country's Development Important

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani underlined that scientists and researchers play an important role in technological and scientific development of the country.

The president made the remark in a meeting with academicians and scientists here Wednesday.

Referring to the hostility of the global arrogance towards the independent and freedom-loving nations, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Rafsanjani stressed that the experiences of post-revolution indicate that the enemies do not miss any opportunity to undermine the Islamic system of Iran. He added that the enemies' claims about the issue of human rights and commitment to international law are only ploys for further safeguarding their own political interests and for exerting pressure on sovereign states.

The president reiterated that at a time when the hegemonic powers cast their covetous eyes on Iran, due to the country's significant political and geographical conditions, the Iranian nation should strive to strengthen economic, scientific and industrial sectors. People should be aware of the enemies' plots to better safeguard



the values and ideology of Islam, he added.

In the meeting, Hojjatoleslam Rafsanjani also presented a medal of research to his advisor in technological affairs, Majid Abasspour, for his valuable services in the fields of science and research.

Foreign Minister to Visit Islamabad Next Week

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is to pay a visit to Islamabad early next week to exchange views with Pakistani authorities on regional and international issues.

Velayati will be the first foreign minister of an Islamic country to visit Pakistan after the election of Nawaz Sharif as new prime minister.

The chief of Pakistan Muslim League Party, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, gained a landslide victory in the February 3 elections.

The newly-elected assembly members on Monday elected Nawaz Sharif as leader of the House and he took oath as prime minister of the country on the same day.

Reliable sources here told IRNA that Velayati's visit to Pakistan soon after formation of a new government here shows the fact that Pakistan and Iran are old friends and political changes do not affect their time tested historical and brotherly ties.

The Iranian Ambassador in Islamabad told IRNA that Velayati will convey President Hashemi Rafsanjani's invitation to his counterpart Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari for the OIC summit meeting to be held in Tehran next December.

Restoration of peace in Afghanistan, the Kashmiri issue and other regional and international developments will come under discussion with Pakistani leaders during Velayati's visit to Islamabad.

The ambassador referring to Nawaz Sharif's first address in parliament after his election as prime minister, said diplomatic circles in Islamabad have welcomed Nawaz's stand on various issues.

Nawaz Sharif after his election as new prime minister addressed the assembly, saying that his government will strengthen relations with the neighboring as well as other Islamic countries.

He also stressed a peaceful solution to the lingering Afghan plight.

Vice President on the Outcome of His Visit to Malaysia

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Vice President Mohammad Mirmohammadi here Wednesday described as fruitful his meetings with Thai and Malaysian officials.

Mirmohammadi, who is also Secretary General of the Employment and Administrative Affairs Organization, told IRNA that the latest achievements and reforms introduced to Iran's administrative system and ways to exchange experiences in this field were discussed in meetings with officials of the two countries, he told IRNA.

In a meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi, Mirmohammadi called for upgrading Tehran-Kuala Lumpur cooperation at international and regional forums especially the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Badawi welcomed the OIC summit meet to be held in Tehran next winter.

The two sides stressed exchange of expert delegations and welcomed launching managerial training courses in the two countries.

In Bangkok, a letter of understanding was signed between Iran and Thailand on administrative management and exchange of experiences.

Habibi Sends Message to Turkish PM

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi cabled a message to the Turkish Premier Necmettin Erbakan, an IRNA report said.

Habibi's message, sent while overflying Turkish air space on his way to Turkey, reminded the Turkish prime minister of the deep cordial relations between the two brotherly nations of Iran and Turkey.

Expressing the warm regards of the Iranian people and government to the Turkish people and government, Habibi emphasized on the two nations' longstanding fraternal ties.

TEHRAN -- Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Homayoun Alizadeh met with the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Faris Bouez in Beirut on Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Confers With Ukrainian Counterpart

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Communication Affairs, Morteza Sarmadi, met with his Ukrainian counterpart, Konstantin Greshenkov, in Kiev Tuesday.

According to IRNA, in his meeting Sarmadi said that the Iranian media had been able to effectively counter the Western media propaganda onslaught and misinformation against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Terming the role of media as valuable, Sarmadi pointed out that close cooperation between Ukraine and Iran in matters related to news exchanges has greatly reduced the influence on the one-sided news effects which is meant to serve the interest of certain powers against nations who follow independent policies.

He further underlined that the two nations of Ukraine and Islamic Iran enjoyed very special stances in their respective regions, and it was necessary for Kiev and Tehran to promote bilateral and multilateral relations in the regional and international arenas.

According to Sarmadi such an objective could be achieved through frequency of talks, exchange of delegations and liaisons between the two countries.

He stated that the Islamic Republic was willing to broaden bilateral relations in wide variety in the areas of media and cultural cooperation.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official stressed that cultural and media relations are the bases for preparing ground for the general



public of the two countries to better understand each other.

Such ties, he added, guarantees the deepening of bilateral relations in the political and economic spheres.

Greshenkov in response said the objective of his visit to the Islamic Republic was to follow up the implementation of the memoranda of understanding inked by the two nations.

He summed up his talks with Iranian officials as very fruitful and stated that the senior officials of both countries are determined to see the expansion of bilateral relations in the areas of oil, banking, manufacture of machinery and exchange of technology.

Iranian Precious Carpet Presented to New York's Islamic Center

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran presented a precious hand-woven carpet to the Islamic-Cultural Center of New York on Tuesday, an IRNA report said.

The carpet, a fine work of art with a Ka'ba motif, the holy Qibla of Muslims, was presented to the Board of Trustees of the center by Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN Kamal Kharrazi in a special ceremony attended by ambassadors of Islamic countries to the UN.

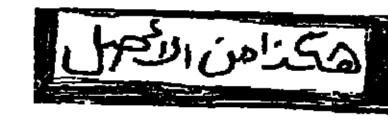
An Iranian master and two carpet weavers have spent two and a half years to produce the magnificent work of art.

The 3x3 meter carpet has the picture of Ka'ba as its central motif surrounded by 38 names of God Almighty. A saying by Prophet Mohammad (S) is seen on top of Ka'ba.

The carpet is assessed to worth $35,000 to 40,000.

In a speech at the ceremony, Kharrazi said the central motif of the carpet, Ka'ba, which is the symbol of unity among world Muslims meant to demonstrate unity of the Iranian Muslims with other world Muslims.

Iran had donated a precious copy of the Holy Qoran of the Othomans Era to the center several years ago.



Habibi Awarded Medal of Athens

ATHENS — In a glittering ceremony at the Athens municipality, mayor of the Greek capital, Dimitris Avramopoulos, yesterday awarded the "medal of the city of Athens" to the visiting first vice-president of Iran, Hassan Habibi.

Today the city of Athens, the capital of Greece, the historic capital of Europe desires to honor the representative of a friendly country with which Greece has long ties of friendship and co-operation, said Avramopoulos in his welcome speech, before giving the gold medal and a certificate to Habibi.

I am very happy to say that also our two capitals, Tehran and Athens, have excellent ties of friendship and co-operation, that merit even further development, he said.

As the mayor of Athens handed the medal to the Iranian vice-president the municipality band played the National Anthem of Greece and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is the first time that a top official from a Middle East and a Muslim country has been awarded the Athens medal, Athenian municipality sources told IRNA.

Your presence in Athens, Mr. Vice-president, the capital of Greece and at the same time the historic capital of Europe, is a clear and positive sign of the excellent relations that our two countries, Iran and Greece, traditionally maintain and successfully promote, since a very long time, Avramopoulos noted.

In this respect the city of Athens, and its mayor will spare no efforts to realize this very significant goal and to enhance and broaden friendsdhip and co-operation between our people, he said.

The mayor of Athens said he would soon be visiting Tehran to promote bilateral relations and to propose the declaration of Athens and Tehran as sister-cities.

On his part, Habibi thanked the mayor of Athens deeply for the expression of love and respect shown to Iran.

Speaking at the ceremony held in a large hall decorated with pictures of past mayors of Athens, Habibi said his visit to Greece is a message of friendship and cooperation.

A large number of Greek and Iranian officials attend the ceremony.

The Iranian vice-president said Greeks and Iranians are two peoples who have maintained their identity and contributed to the development of the world civilizations and culture.

Through our joint efforts, we can again promote co-operation between East and West, said Habibi.

The values in Islamic Iran today are values which will never be abandoned and the people of Greece know and respect them, Habibi said.

I am very happy that the cities of Athens and Tehran have decided to foster and strengthen friendly relations, he said.

(IRNA)

Tehran-Mogadishu Relations Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Sheikhulesiam held talks with leader of Somalian National Solidarity Hussein Aidid in Mogadishu Wednesday. Aidid briefed the Iranian official on the situation in Somalia, the peace process in his country and the obstacles hindering the peace.

He hoped that despite the foreign influence exercised through certain opposition, the process of peace and reconciliation would go on and the rival groups would reach a general understanding. Sheikhulesiam emphasized the need for unity of all parties in accordance with the Islamic teachings and honouring the territorial integrity of Somalia.

TV Programs to Be Broadcast Internationally

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Iranian TV would broadcast and start beaming its programs to several world countries, Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB) Ali Larijani said in Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan, on Tuesday.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a powerful transmitter near this northwestern provincial capital, he added that the Iranian television's international service would cover European, Asian and African countries.

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 12°C
Min. temp. 2°C

Clear to partly cloudy with wind

Warmest Point:
Minab 28°C

Coldest Point:
Qeen -7°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	28	Vienna	—
Istanbul	—	Moscow	—
Rome	—	Madrid	14
Athens	—	Abu Dhabi	31
London	9	Karachi	29
Paris	8	New Delhi	22
Frankfurt	7	Kuwait	25

Four Development Projects Become Operational in Sari



Photo: Abbas Taleb

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Four development projects came on stream in Sari, Mazandaran Province by Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri on Wednesday.

Two poultry farms and a road project were among the projects inaugurated by Nateq Nouri, the Construction Jihad office of this Caspian province.

According to the report a total of 619 million rials has so far spent for implementation of the projects.

Seven Killed in Tajikistan Unrest

and a Russian border guard was shot dead in a separate incident, local police said.

In the first attack, four Russians died — including a military officer and two security guards of the American Embassy — along with a Tajik scientist and a Tajik police officer who worked as a hospital guard.

Separately, unidentified gunmen shot and killed 42-year-old Sergei Navzarov with a shot to the head at about 7:00 p.m. as he returned to his home in an outlying region of the Tajik capital.

(AFP)

WHO Supports Expansion of Training Centers in Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Director for Development of Health Services of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean Professor Mahjoub Jafar on Wednesday voiced WHO's support for the expansion of training centers in Iran.

The centers for development of medical training will be expanded at medical sciences universities throughout the country.

Jafar made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Minister of Health Ali Reza Marandi.

The WHO official added that the progress made in Iran in the field offers a good model for the region.

He added that the centers can play a major role in training the medical workforce of other countries of the region.

President Felicitates Sultan of Brunei on Independence Day

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here yesterday conveyed his greetings to the Sultan of Brunei, Hassan Bolkiah, on the anniversary celebration of Brunei's independence.

In his message submitted by Iranian Ambassador Javad Ansari to Bruneian Foreign Minister Mohammad Bolkiah, the president hailed Brunei for its active presence in the Islamic world.

During the meeting, Ansari also submitted the message of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Bruneian counterpart.

In his message, Velayati expressed satisfaction over the level and scope of bilateral ties between Iran and Brunei and called for upgrading of multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries.

The Sultanate of Brunei declared independence from Britain in 1983. Its current population of 270,000 is predominantly Muslim.

108m Passengers Transported by IRIA

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — Managing Director of the Islamic Republic Airline, Seyed Hussein Shafti here Wednesday said that since its establishment in 1961, the airline has transported some 108 million passengers within and outside the country.

He added that 83 percent of the passengers have been transported since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, particularly after the end of the imposed Iraqi war aginst Iran.

Speaking on the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the airline, Shafti said that the number of the Haj pilgrims transported during the post-revolution has increased to 1.5 million from 577,000 before the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

As for capabilities of the airline, Shafti said that more than 1,000 foreign technicians were working for AIRI before the revolution. Thanks to the Islamic Revolution and relentless efforts of the airline personnel, all technical works are being carried out by domestic experts.

Shafti noted that the airline is to boost its fleet in the future, and that it would set up new Tehran-Copenhagen and Tehran-Stockholm air links by the next summer.

He added that the Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to replace its old planes with new ones in the near future.

Indo-Iran Joint Economic Commission to Open Saturday

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Indo-Iran Joint Economic Commission is to open here Saturday with the two countries foreign ministers participating.

Top on the commission's agenda is the setting up of a joint fertilizer-producing factory in Iran's Qeshm Free Trade Zone with an estimated investment of $350 million.

According to reports, the Qeshm Free Trade Zone will invest 70 percent of the total investment while two Indian companies share the rest of the investment.

On the basis of planning, the factory is to produce urea and ammonia.

Construction of Iran-India gas pipeline project is another significant topic to be discussed at the commission. The experts of the two countries have not yet decided to lay the gas pipeline through sea or land.

Official sources have predicted that Iran might discuss with the Indian experts the possibility of construction of Mashhad-Shahroud railroad signalling system.

During his visit to Tehran, the Indian Foreign Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, is to call on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri.

Tehran-Yerevan Industrial Cooperation Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Iranian Ambassador to Yerevan and the Aremenian Minister of Indsutry Monday discussed in Yerevan industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Hamid Reza Nik-Kar Esfahani in a meeting with Ashot Safaryan discussed construction of Gajaran tunnel and Iran's participation in industrial projects in Armenia including tire manufacturing and mining projects.

Safaryan is the Armenian chairman of joint Tehran-Yerevan Economic Commission.

Planners of 'Iran 1400' to Discuss With President

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will meet the planners of Iran 1400 (2002 AD)' to draft a long-term master plan for transforming the social and economic profile of the Islamic Republic in the next 25 years.

Among the planners of Iran 1400' are the head of budget and planning organization, Hamid Mir-Zadeh, his deputies, directors general of various departments and other officials associated with the planning of the country, IRNA reported.

A great number of experts, researchers, scholars, ulema, members of the science academy and the public have been asked to present their opinions in the press and media as to the best way of implementing the giant plan which would revolutionize the cultural, economic, political and social infrastructure of the nation in order to revive the great Islamic civilization.

The meeting will focus on defining the attainable objectives, directions and priorities of the targets, the areas of realistic planning which could be materialized and the available human and material resources on which the blueprint could be worked out.

President Rafsanjani is expected to give some important guidelines to the planners for the giant stride in the service of the nation and Islam.

Iran Returns to World Cotton Market

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - After two decades of absence on world cotton markets Iran's name reappeared at international market boards notably at Liverpool, U.K., it was announced on Tuesday.

Iran recently exported some 40,000 tons of processed cotton to international markets and the figure is expected to rise.

Kherasan Exports $300m Worth of Goods

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some $300 million worth of non-oil goods were exported from Khorasan province during the current Iranian year (March 20, 1996- March 20, 1997).

The exports show an increase of 50 folds compared to 1992 , said an official at the governor's general office Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Hussein Ahmadi added that over 150,000 tons of various products were exported to Central Asian countries during the first nine months of the current year.

India Succeeds in Warding Off U.S. Pressures Over Telecom Sector

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - India succeeded in neutralizing pressures from the U.S. and the European Union on additional and extra commitment in opening up the telecom sector in the recently concluded World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Geneva.

India also resisted pressure from the U.S. to withdraw its most favorable nation exemption clause on bilaterally negotiated accounting rates of telephone calls, said chairman of telecom commission, V.K. Gokak, while addressing a press conference in New Delhi.

Gokak, who led the Indian delegation at the Geneva meeting, said India was the first country to table the MFN exemption clause in that regard and other countries like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladedsh and Turkey followed suit.

India is not willing to bind itself to anything beyond 25 percent before an international body on foreign equity on telecom projects, added Gokak.

Turkmen Cabinet Endorses Implementation of Accords With Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Turkmen cabinet in its session in Ashkhabad yesterday underlined the speedy implementation of the agreements reached recently with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turkmen President Safar Murad Niyazov presiding over the session, remarked as positive the outcome of his last week's visit to Iran, IRNA reported.

Iran to Privatize Government Cold-Storages

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran's Ministry of Commerce is planning to privatize all its cold-storages and to build new ones, Commerce Minister Yahya al-e Eshaq said here on Tuesday.



He said the trade services promotion company, a subsidiary of the commerce ministry, is to use 70 percent of the value from the sale of cold-stores to build new ones, IRNA reported.

Speaking on the side lines of a conference on significance of cold-storages in Iran's economic growth, Al-e Eshaq said the capacity of Iran's cold-storages currently stands at 1.5 million tons.

The minister concluded that 400,000 tons will be added to the current cold-storage capacity by the end of the Second 5-Year Development Plan in 1999.

1st Conference on Chemistry Educatin to Satar Work

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- The first conference on chemistry education is to start work on August 16 in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Province, it was announced here Wednesday.

According to a fax made available to the daily, the 3-day conference co-sponsored by Education and Training Ministry and Iran's association for chemical engineering will be held in Tabriz University.

The conference aims to make the participants familiar with the modern methods in education of chemistry and to surveys ways for motivating students for education of the science.

Spill Sends Oil Into Volga River

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - About 400 tons of oil spilled into the Volga River on Sunday after a pipeline ruptured near the town of Saratov, south of Moscow, Itar-Tass news agency said.

It said a total of 1,200 tons of oil leaked out of the pipeline after it burst. Most of it flooded into a ravine near the site of the landing of the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin in 1961.

Albright Fails to Quell Sanctions Row With EU

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The European Union is pressing ahead with its legal challenge to U.S. sanctions legislation against Cuba following the failure by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to find an amicable settlement to the dispute.

The prospects of heading off a showdown at the World Trade Organisation were dashed as both sides publicly fell out after a meeting in Brussels Tuesday, IRNA reported.

European Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, repeated that Washington's so-called Helms-Burton law against Cuba was unacceptable, unjustified and unproductive, saying that Fidel Castro "must be laughing all the way to the bank."

He confirmed that the EU would ask WTO Director General, Renato Ruggiero, Thursday to nominate a panel to hear its legal challenge.

In response, Albright was reported by the *Guardian* newspaper to have "appeared shocked" by the tone of the commissioner's remarks, saying they were "not words he used in the meeting we had."

Last week, the U.S. asked the EU to postpone its request for a dispute panel to be set up for a further seven days to allow more time for negotiations to find a settlement.

President Clinton has sought to cool the row by promising to continue suspending a provision which authorizes private U.S. court cases against foreign companies 'trafficking' in Cuban assets confiscated by the government.

But the EU Trade Commissioner has said that the offer does not go far enough and is seeking exclusion also from more recent U.S. extra-territorial legislation that threatens to penalize foreign firms from investing in Iran and Libya's energy industries.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, February 19, 1997.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating BUY	Rates SELL	Export BUY	Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,340	1,348	2,300	2,312
Austria	schilling	146	147	250	251
Belgium	(100) francs	4,973	5,002	8,538	8,581
Canada	dollar	1,287	1,295	2,210	2,221
Denmark	krone	269	271	462	464
France	franc	304	306	522	525
Germany	mark	1,026	1,046	1,761	1,770
Holland	guilder	915	920	1,570	1,578
Italy	(100) liras	104	105	178	179
Japan	(100) yen	1,404	1,412	2,411	2,423
Sweden	krone	234	236	403	405
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,801	2,817	4,808	4,832
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

WTO to Name Helms-Burton Panel Members Today

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - World Trade Organization Director General Renato Ruggiero will name three panelists today who will arbitrate a dispute over controversial American anti-Cuba legislation, trade sources confirmed in Geneva Wednesday.

The nominations will mark a new phase in the row over the Helms-Burton law, in what pundits deem a test case for the two-year-old WTO, AFP reported.

Europe, backed by Canada and Mexico, is seeking redress through the WTO over what it insists is legislation that imposes U.S foreign policy "diktate" on other nations in violation of global free trade principles.

The law aims to punish foreign companies that do business with expropriated U.S. property in Fidel Castro's Cuba. The EU is furious that, under the law, its nationals can taken to U.S. courts and its executives refused entry visas to the United States.

In an attempt to head off confrontation, U.S. President Bill Clinton has twice waived the provision for lawsuits.

The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), which handles trade spats, agreed to form a panel to examine the case on November 20. normally, both sides to a trade tiff agree on the choice of arbitrators.

However, the two failed to reach a consensus, making it necessary for Ruggiero himself to step in and appoint panel members, for the second time in the WTO's history.

What the panelists will examine "is what is written down in the EU request for a panel, which gives the legal basis for the case," a trade source said.

The United States has fiercely fought WTO involvement, insisting Helms-Burton is not a trade matter and the world body is not the appropriate forum to solve the dispute.

It has threatened to invoke its national security requirements as grounds for not cooperating with the panel and to withdraw from bilateral negotiations in a bid to avoid a panel ruling.

For the WTO, adjudication looks like a thankless task.

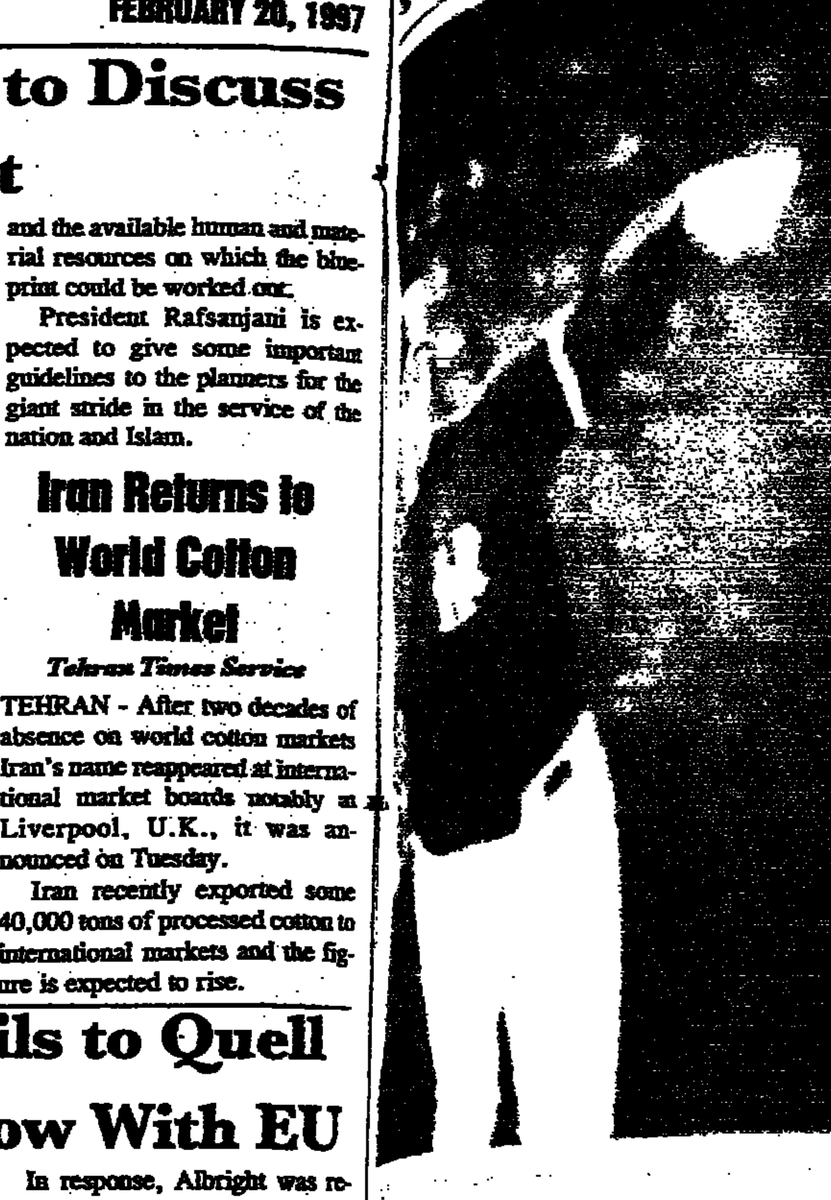
If the panel rules in favor of the EU, "there could be severe repercussions in Congress," a trade source said. In some quarters of Washington, anti-WTO sentiment is already apparent.

If the panel finds in favor of the United States, "then it could open up a precedent to invoke article 21," which allows countries to escape their trade obligations by claiming national security concerns.

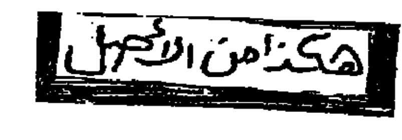
No country has jumped on the article 21 bandwagon since the WTO came into being on January 1995.

Either way, the WTO's authority as world trade adjudicator could suffer. A panel should normally have a life span of nine months from start to finish. After examination, a final report is submitted to the two parties and the DSB has 60 days to adopt its findings. However, either party may launch an appeal before the adoption stage.

Even during a panel process, there is nothing to stop the two sides from reaching a negotiated agreement.







DUNEDIN, FL, United States (Feb. 17): New York Yankees left-handed pitcher Graeme Lloyd of Australia throws as he works out on the third day of spring training for pitchers and catchers at Legends Field in Tampa, Florida. The Yankees' full squad is to report February 19.

(AFP PHOTO)

FIFA Threatens Cameroon With Suspension

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — World soccer's governing body has warned Cameroon that it could be suspended from all international competitions, including the World Cup, if it doesn't immediately pay overdue wages to one of its former players.

The suspension threat, signed by FIFA Secretary General Joseph "Sepp" Blatter, was sent to newly-elected Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) President Vincent Onana.

FIFA ordered FECAFOOT to pay Cameroon's veteran goalkeeper Joseph Antoine Bell about 37 million CFA ($74,000), which it has owed him since the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

FIFA said Cameroon would be suspended from FIFA-organized competitions if it didn't immediately pay bell. That could mean an automatic suspension from the 1998 World Cup in France.

The money dispute goes back to the 1994 World Cup, when Bell led a players' revolt against the national federation.

The goalkeeper threatened to lead a team boycott of the game against Brazil over the federation's failure to pay the players' qualification bonuses.

The players backed down from their strike threat, but Bell quit the team in the middle of the tournament.

Last December, Bell contested the FECAFOOT presidency and lost to Onana. Prior to the vote, Bell accused FECAFOOT and the Cameroon government of having swindled players' money during the 1994 World Cup.

Reacting to the FIFA threat, Onana told the National Radio in an interview Sunday, "Our federation is in deep financial crisis," adding that "Cameroon cannot be suspended. Cameroon is credible, but to say that Bell be paid as soon as possible is not comprehensive."

Onana said attorneys for FECAFOOT had not yet determined whether Bell was not paid his dues during the last World Cup.

Federations traditionally pay their players a stipend and bonuses tied to team performance in games and tournaments, including the World Cup. (AP)

2nd IRIGF Fajr Sports and Cultural Festival Winds Up

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — In a closing ceremony attended by Brigadier General Dadbin, Commander of the Ground Forces, Hojjatoleslam Eemani, head of Politico-Ideological Bureau (PIB), and a number of commanders and deputies as well as sports authorities of the Armed Forces, the 2nd I.R. of Iran Ground Forces Fajr Sports and Cultural Festivals wound up.

According to Colonel Majdabadi, head of the Ground Forces' Physical Education Department, the participant teams competed with each other in 4 sports of tae kwon do, veterans' futsal, shooting and basketball.

Player Hopes to Regain Sight in Eye

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australian soccer player Angelo Costanzo hopes to recover enough sight in his injured left eye to resume his career next season — but he was Wednesday told he will never regain full use of the eye.

Costanzo, 21, suffered a sliced pupil when fans of the rival South Melbourne Club threw rocks and bottles at the Adelaide City team bus after a national soccer league match on Sunday evening.

Costanzo had a patch removed from his eye on Wednesday. He was relieved he will regain some use of the eye, but concerned for his future.

"It's all a bit blurry, but the doctor said I should be alright, although it will never be 100 percent again," Costanzo said from the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

"I'm hoping to be training again in three weeks, but I expect to be out for the rest of the year. It's disappointing, but I guess I'm just lucky to have got my eyesight back." (AP)

CLEVELAND, United States (Feb. 17): New Jersey Nets guard Kendall Gill (L) drives around Donny Marshall of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second half at Gund Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. Gill scored 30 points but it wasn't enough as the Cavaliers kept the lead and defeated the Nets 108-101.

(AFP PHOTO)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 27)

Mato Blow

Mato (fist) blow as the most common blow in kung fu is an attacking weapon it is performed very precisely and quickly in a short time.

If you turn your thigh joint before blowing, it will turn into a strong and heavy blow which should rest opposite your nose while your defending hand is near your head to defend any counterattack blow. You should perform Mato blow directly on your rival's face and just when you are on guard position. Do not let your rival become aware of your intention of blowing and avoid any unnecessary moves such as retraction of the arm before blowing. The only move you should perform is a light Mato blow when you are seeking an opportunity to do it. So, while your fist is in vertical position, you should blow directly. Your back hand is on guard position in order to be ready to defend any strokes.

Then you should increase around 4 inches the accessibility of fist to the target through increasing the shoulders' power as well as properly using your body. Note that the arm always moves *earlier than the leg in all arm techniques. Saving the time, you* should be able to blow from every angle and distance. When make an attack on your rival, your moves in particular the techniques of hands should be fast and at the same time very delicate in order to stop your rival from defending or making any counterattacks.

If you want to blow effectively, you are required to know the exact time of performing Mato blow. Because, there are one defense technique as well as one counterattack technique for one attack technique. So, you have to be cocksure of the blow's function and security.

[illegible]

Although the stroke of fist is not necessarily a heavy blow, but it plays *an effective role in confusing and troubling the rival and* also spoiling his guard. Of course, if you perform Mato blow on diaphragm, it can be a deadly stroke.

[illegible]

To perform Mato blow directly on your rival's body, you should stand on guard, bend your trunk a little, take one step fore while the front leg bearing the body's weight should be a little bent and your back leg flexible. While blowing with your right hand, your chin should be turned to the left and vice versa.

It is very important to perform the fist technique completely while your body should act like a spring. The stroke is safer and more effective when it is done horizontally or a little inclined to the above.

(Contd From Pg.12)

15th ....

* From among posters on "*Gabbeh*" (Hooshang Khorrambin)
* From among posters on "*Mother Gisoo*" (Kamran Katoozian)
* From among posters on "*A real Story*" (Reza Abedini)

Best Announce Candidates

* The announce of "*The Tower of Minoo*" (Iraj Golafshan)
* The announce of "*Sisters but Strangers*" (Mahdi Zhoorak)
* The announce of "*A Trip to Chazzabeh*" (Behzad Behzadpour)
* The announce of "*Ghazal*" (Samad Tavazoie)
* The announce of "*Leili's With Me*" (Hassan Aqakarimi)

15th Fajr Theater Festival Starts Work Tomorrow

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The 15th Fajr Theater Festival is to open work tomorrow, Feb. 21, 1997 with the joint cooperation of Center for Dramatic Arts (affiliated to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance) and Municipality of Tehran.

According to a fax from the public relations of the festival the objectives behind holding the theater festival are to encourage and promote Islamic culture and religious norms, as well as national traditions, exchange views and opinions among the artists, proper utilization of the theater language for expressing the Islamic values, and supporting theater groups.

The fax also said some 150 from among 225 plays were chosen by the jury for the first stage.

Seventy plays are from Tehran and the other 80 plays are from other cities nationwide.

According to the report some 28 plays will be acted out in competition section, 35 plays in guest section and 10 plays in special section.

It should be noted that these plays will go on stage at Teatr-e Shahr: Main Hall, Charsou, No. 2 Hall, Vahdat Hall, Roudaki, Niavaran Cultural House, Halls of Bahman Cultural House: Shahid Avini, Charlie, Mobarak, Shafaq Cultural House, and Ebn-e Sina Cultural House. The 15th Fajr Theater Festival will last until Feb. 28, 1997.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

SOCIAL...

and quantitative planning in a country like Iran which follows Qoranic teachings and Islam in its administrative system will be the best service rendered to the Islamic World.

He added that the idea for creation of an Islamic Civilization according to the Islamic laws and plays will go on stage at Theatre has in creation of a civilization and given the significant role Iran plays in creation of such a civilization, Iranian politicians and thinkers should shoulder more responsibility than those of other countries.

Referring to the principle of Velayat -e Faqih, and its importance in the Islamic system, he said that in the Constitution, and the Islamic Sharia , the macro-policies of the country should be based on the opinions of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. The president further underlined the need for paying due attention to the deprived and less-developed regions in the country as well as the women's rights and status which have been neglected in the past.

Dissemination of social discipline, working ethics, productivity, and cooperation should be among other issues to be considered in planning the project, he said.

He further alluded to the country's advances in certain important sectors like petrochemistry, health, mining, transportation and agriculture, and health and called for intra-national planning.

Iran is determined to help the Muslim world and the deprived nations to develop their resources to reduce their dependence to big powers.

He further expressed Iran's readiness to export technical, scientific and educational services to other countries across the world and said the word has realized Iran's good will and that it does not follow expansionist policies or seek new markets for its manufactured goods but follows humanitarian goals.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

HABIBI...

Athens and Tehran.

Iran is a top oil supplier to Greece. Athens picks up 150,000 barrels of Iranian crude per day.

However, trade exchanges between the two countries remains a low $50 million per annum.

Simitis said talks between the two sides would continue Wednesday related with special issues. I believe that they would help Greece to play a more active role in the region and in the Middle East.

Habibi arrived in Athens Tuesday afternoon at the head of a big delegation including the ministers of housing, commerce and deputy ministers of foreign affairs, transportation, agriculture, energy and other high-ranking officials on a 3-day visit.

The official welcome ceremony for Habibi was held outside the prime minister's office in central Athens, adjacent to the big national gardens.

Habibi thanked Simitis and the Greek government for the warm reception and said they also discussed bilateral and quadrilateral regional cooperation.

Habibi was hinting at joint efforts by Greece, Iran, Armenia and Georgia to promote joint economic cooperation.

Both Greece and Iran give great importance to the visit and to the talks, stressed Habibi.

The Greek prime minister referring to the recent visit of Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos to Tehran and to the current visit of Habibi to Athens said they show our desire to develop our ties and that this effort should continue.

Replying to reporters' questions, Habibi said the two sides also discussed Greek-Turkish relations, and hoped that the two countries would overcome their problems for a better understanding.

He said Iran could not impose a mediation-role, but if the two friendly countries so desired, Iran would offer its good services.

On his way to Greece while flying over Turkey, Habibi dispatched a message of greetings and friendship to Turkish Premier Necmettin Erbakan.

Commenting on Iran-European Union ties, Habibi said Iran's ties with the EU were never closed and Iran maintains economic and political ties with Europe.

Habibi added, however, that Iran's close ties with Greece and his visit to Athens could lead to further improvement of Tehran's relations with the European Union (EU). *(IRNA)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

RUSSIA...

The Palestinian leader called on Russia, the United States and the European Union to "convince Israel not to go ahead with the building of new Jewish settlements" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli government is studying a plan to build a new settlement in an area which lies south of East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Arafat continued to say that Israel's hold on the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the past three years had resulted in huge losses for the Palestinians, which he estimated at between seven and nine million dollars a day.

On Tuesday Yeltsin told Arafat on Russian television that "achievement of a total and just settlement in the Middle East is one of Russia's foreign policy priorities," a Kremlin statement said.

The Russian leader also called for Palestinians and Israel to fix "the final status of the Palestinian territory." Moscow has consistently given a warm reception to the Palestinians' demands for an independent state, something rejected by Israel. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

FBI...

The FBI Affidavit said Tenenbaum admitted giving up the information after undergoing a lie detector test as part of a security clearance upgrade, the *Free Press and Detroit News* said. He has not been arrested or charged.

According to the affidavit, Tenenbaum said he had inadvertently given classified information to every Israeli liaison officer assigned to the tank command over the past 10 years and to a scientific deputy director for the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

The Israelis were given test data for light-armor systems and information about countermeasures for Patriot missiles, used by the United States in the Persian Gulf war, according to the affidavit.

Federal authorities also say Tenenbaum disclosed classified information about the Bradley fighting vehicle and the Humvee.

He also admitted that he had taken classified documents home, the affidavit said.

Detroit FBI spokesman Thomas Bailey said Tuesday that agents had searched Tenenbaum's home, but he would not say whether anything was seized. Bailey declined further comment.

The newspapers reported that agents were searching for telephone bills, financial statements, address books, computer files and any other related documents.

A woman who answered the phone at Tenenbaum's home Tuesday said she didn't know about the search warrant or the investigation, the news said.

Eric Robin, a National Security Council spokesman in the White House, said his agency would have no comment on the report of Tenenbaum's activity because it is part of a criminal investigation.

"I gather that the Pentagon is also aware of this but will not be commenting," Robin told the *Free Press*. The FBI, he said, would provide the only "official response from the U.S. government" at this time.

The Israelis would be interested in Patriot missile technology because the United States has sold the weapons system to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, said Paul Beaver, group spokesman for Jane's information group, publisher of books on airplanes and ships.

Giving military information to the Israelis is not unprecedented. Former U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard received a life sentence in 1986 for passing government secrets to Israel. *(AP)*

Japanese Red Army Member Arrested



ISRAEL(Feb. 18): (FILES) A file photo taken July 10 1972 shows Kozo Okamoto (R), a leader of the radical Japanese Red Army, during the opening of his trial before a military tribunal at an undisclosed location in central Israel. Okamoto, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in Israel for the May 1972 attack on Tel Aviv's Lod airport that left 26 people dead and 80 wounded, was freed in 1985 during a hostage swap between the Jewish state and Palestinian guerrillas. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz announced that security services were detaining and interrogating five suspected members of the Japanese Red Army, including Okamoto, now 49.

(AFP PHOTO)

BEIRUT — Kozo Okamoto, the Japanese Red Army member arrested in Lebanon, was the sole survivor among the three Japanese gunmen who killed 26 and wounded 80 in a May 1972 attack on Tel Aviv's Lod Airport.

Sentenced to life in prison by a military court in July 1972, the former agriculture student from Ashikita in Kumamoto prefecture was released on May 20, 1985 along with 1,150 Palestinians in exchange for Israeli soldiers.

Described by teachers as a promising student, Okamoto was reportedly persuaded by an elder brother to join the Red Army faction in 1970.

The Japanese Red Army, which is led by a 51-year-old woman, Fusako Shigenobu, and seeks to foment world revolution, was formed in 1971 as the overseas arm of the Red Army faction.

The group was active alongside Palestinian movements in the 1970s and 1980s, carrying out plane hijackings and attacking diplomatic missions in Asia and Europe.

On the evening of May 30, 1972, Okamoto and two other Japanese Red Army members arrived at Lod Airport on Air France flight 707 from Paris via Rome.

They produced three Kalashnikov rifles and hand grenades from their luggage and opened fire at random on passengers in the arrivals terminal.

"I didn't kill because I hate the Israelis," Okamoto said.

An Israeli military court rejected Okamoto's request that he be executed and sentenced him to life imprisonment. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

The Palestinians informed UNRWA that they could build in the Bet Surik area between Bait-ul-Moqaddas and the self-rule town of Ramallah in the expectation that the area would eventually be transferred to Palestinian control, Lerner said.

In a meeting Tuesday between civil administration and UNRWA officials, Israel issued the order informing the representatives they must destroy the building or Israel would. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg.10)

IN .....

formerly known as Prince careened down the chute and onto a frozen pond.

This coastal Maine town of 4,000 residents has had a toboggan chute since the 1930s. The community-owned equipment fell into disrepair in the 1980s but was rebuilt with voluntary labor and materials.

Only U.S. Wooden Toboggan Chute

"Then, of course, somebody said, 'Oh we've got to race'," Chace said. "We figured we have the only wooden toboggan chute in the country, so we can also declare ourselves the national championship."

The race is now in its seventh year and draws more than 200 competitors from as far as California. They range in age from teenagers to two men who admitted they were 70-odd.

"It all comes down to what you put on the bottom of your sled and your attitude," said Linda Newell, who with her real-life sister, Betty Emmons, donned a Catholic nun's headgear to run the race as the Sister Act.

Although most competitors acknowledged their sleds were the kind found in any sporting goods store, each team jealously guarded at least one trade secret — the wax or other lubricant used to ease the toboggan's slide.

"Those who know don't say and those who say don't know," said Tom Sadowski, who has competed in six of the races.

Raccoon Fat the Secret?

Among the suggestions given a reporter: lemon pledge furniture polish, blueberry candle wax and a mystery wax formula that was said to feature raccoon fat. "They claim to pick up road-kill all year long," one racer said, pointing to where raccoon fat advocates were working on their toboggans.

A wrong wax choice can prove embarrassing. A few racers whose toboggans got stuck on the snow midway down the chute were greeted with calls of "Push, Push" from the crowd.

"At least we didn't get lost on the course," rationalized one first-time racer from Massachusetts whose toboggan stopped ignominiously a few meters from the finish line.

The focus on selecting the right wax might also be explained by the fact that once the sled is launched there is little for the racers to do but hang on.

"They don't need any skill," Chace admitted. "It's hard to be hi-tech."

Toboggan racing enthusiasts contend the time may be right for their sport's comeback. "I think that's why people like it - - because it is so dumb," Chace said with a laugh.

Organizers of the National Toboggan Championship expect their event to grow. Racers have already reserved spots in next year's competition and the event may be reorganized to allow more teams. *(Reuter)*

East Bait ul Moqaddas Construction 'Death Warrant' for Peace Process





BAIT UL MOQADDAS – Construction of new Jewish neighborhoods in East Bait-ul Moqaddas is a 'death warrant' for the peace process that could provoke worse violence than clashes that claimed 80 lives in September, Palestinian Leader Faisal Husseini said Tuesday.

Husseini told the Associated Press that if the Israeli government allows construction of the planned Har Homa and Ras Al-Amud projects, it will "ignite an explosion. ... the situation could be worse than it was before," he said.

"We are not threatening," Husseini added. "We are warning."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been under pressure from members of his governing coalition to move forward with construction in East Bait ul Moqaddas to strengthen Israel's hold over the disputed city.

The 6,500-unit Har Homa Jewish neighborhood is to be built on land between Arab parts of Bait ul Moqaddas and surrounding Palestinian villages in the West Bank, and Palestinians claim it is part of an Israeli strategy of cutting the city off from the West Bank.

Husseini - who is in charge of Bait ul Moqaddas affairs for Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority - said Har Homa would undermine Palestinian claims to East Bait ul Moqaddas a future capital for a Palestinian state. Arafat is protesting the construction to Israel, European governments and the United Nations, he said.

Husseini called construction of Jewish neighborhoods in East Bait ul Moqaddas "a death warrant for the peace process" and said it was a violation of the agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, which call for the status of Bait ul Moqaddas to be settled in negotiations on a final peace agreement.

The Israeli group Peace Now, which has fought the Har Homa construction in court, said it would go back to court if the government approved going ahead with the project.

"We will fight it with every means that we have," Tzali Resbef said Tuesday. "We came here today to warn the Israeli government and Israeli public against taking such a step in the middle of the peace process."

Palestinian farmers living nearby said they would fight any attempt to build at Har Homa.

"We will confront their bulldozers," said 67-year-old Ibrahim Abu Tair of Umm Tuba, who had 29 Dunams (about 7.5 acres) of land confiscated for the Har Homa project.

"I sowed two tons of wheat and barley there this year," he said, pointing to his confiscated land on the slope of the mountain. "How will I feed my animals?"

Local residents said Har Homa - called Abu Ghenaim in Arabic - should be used to ease overcrowding for Palestinians in the adjacent Umm Tuba neighborhood, who face much stricter housing restrictions than Jewish residents of Bait ul Moqaddas.

The other project mentioned by Husseini - Ras al-Amud - would put 132 homes for Jews in the middle of a crowded Palestinian neighborhood. Bait ul Moqaddas city planners approved the project in December.

Also Tuesday, an Israeli ministerial committee decided to begin construction on highways connecting Bait ul Moqaddas to the West Bank from the South and the East and a road ringing East Bait ul Moqaddas.

The decision paves the way for four new highways, mostly on land captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast War.

The committee is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the Har Homa project.

(AP)

Born-Again Pakistani Premier Has Work Cut Out

ISLAMABAD- Nawaz Sharif has become Pakistan's prime minister for the second time, having engineered his comeback by transforming himself into a populist leader.

The 48-year-old head of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) landslide victory in the February 3 election, crushing rival leader Benazir Bhutto, and assuming office with a daunting agenda to revive a crisis-laden economy.

Sharif, whose family owns Ittefaq Industrial, one of the country's largest conglomerates with interests in metal, sugar and textiles, has forged a close rapport with trade and business.

However, his simple, straightforward approach in the election campaign appealed to an electorate tired of corruption, inflation and unemployment.

The new prime minister must lift an economy plagued by budget deficits, high inflation and a foreign debt of 30 billion dollars, while the nation has pinned high expectations for relief and a clean administration.

On foreign affairs he faces tensions with India, and the festering factional conflict in Afghanistan that has dashed Pakistan's hopes of reaching out to Central Asia by land.

In his speech to the parliament, Sharif said the new PML government knew fully well its responsibilities towards the nation.

It is determined to take "drastic action" to straighten the national economy, root out corruption, provide easy justice, job opportunities on merit and set healthy democratic traditions, he said.

In his previous 1990-93 tenure Sharif tried to liberalize the economy, lifted control on foreign exchange and started privatization. He took bold initiatives such as allowing unemployed youths to run taxis with easy installment loans, a scheme that was dubbed reckless by many at the time. However people still appreciate the yellow cabs seen everywhere, which they say have eased transport and provided a source of income to armies of young people. Sharif, who secured 177 votes against 16 polled by Bhutto's candidate former defense minister Aftab Shabaan Mirani, said he would work for reconciliation.

He pledged to put the country's economy back on the rails and create security and stability.

"I will not indulge in politics of confrontation," he said. Sharif's political career, begun under the patronage of military ruler Mohammed Zia ul Haq, has been marked by his long battle with Bhutto. General Zia toppled Bhutto's father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1975, executing him two years later on a political murder conspiracy charge.

Sharif became finance minister of his home province Punjab in 1982.

In 1985 he was elected a member of federal parliament and the Punjab Provincial Assembly. He became chief minister of the Punjab with its industrial and agricultural power.

The bulk of the Pakistan army comes from his province. Sharif fiercely opposed Benazir Bhutto, who formed a coalition government in 1985 after Zia was killed in a plane crash.

Leading a 10-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), Sharif won a 1990 general election, but his tenure ended when he was forced to resign, with former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in July 1993, under an army-brokered formula to end a crippling political crisis.

Sharif, who was defeated in October 1993 snap polls, served as opposition leader during Bhutto's rule, which ended in November when President Farooq Ahmad Leghari sacked her on charges of corruption and misrule.

But he snowed a strong will and organizational skills to stage a dramatic comeback, trouncing Bhutto two weeks ago.

Sharif, a praticising Muslim who comes from a religious family, has said he would make the teaching of the Qoran, the Muslim holy book, a compulsory subject up to the secondary level. (AFP)

Egypt To Try Israeli, Three Others For Spying

CAIRO– A detained Israeli man will stand trial in Egypt with three other people on charges of spying for Israel and damaging Egypt's national interests, officials said on Monday.

The case of Azam, a 35-year-old chief mechanic at an Israeli-owned factory in Egypt who was arrested in November, has caused friction in already strained Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Israel said he was innocent and appealed for his release but Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said that once Israel made the case public he could not interfere with the legal system.

The other defendants in the espionage case are 34-year-old Egyptian Emad Abdelhamid Ismail and two Israeli women who are not in Egypt – Zahra Youssef Greiss and Mona Ahmed Shawahna.

Egypt's prosecutor general on Monday referred the four to trial and issued the charge sheet, which says Ismail agreed to help the two women spy for Israel's intelligence service Mossad.

The prosecution alleged that Ismail worked with Mossad from March to October last year.

Greiss, with whom he was having an affair according to the prosecution, gave Ismail when he was recruited and Shawahna offered to pay him per month if he helped Mossad, the charge sheet said.

Azam's alleged role in the espionage case was to deliver to Ismail women's underwear inscribed with invisible ink.

The prosecution has not said what kind of information Israel was seeking.

Ismail received the necessary training to carry out his assignments with the intention of harming the state's interest, the charge sheet said.

It said Azam and Ismail had both confessed to the charges. But Azam denied the espionage charges in December in his first public appearance in an Egyptian court for a hearing to extend his detention.

The charge sheet said that Ismail told interrogators he was recruited when he went to Israel last February to train at a women's garments factory.

The Egyptian told interrogators he became acquainted with Greiss at the factory and that shortly afterwards she began taking him out to have sex with him in her car.

Ismail said he felt at the time that they were being photographed. He told interrogators that Greiss asked him many questions about Egypt and conditions there after he agreed to work with Mossad.

National security authority investigators said they had recorded telephone calls between Esmail and Greiss in which he agreed to obey Mossad orders to go to Hungary, after which he would go to Israel.

The sources said the four would face trial in the supreme state security court and that public prosecutor Raga El-Arabi would ask for the harshest possible sentence, which would be life imprisonment with hard labor.

A date for the trial has not yet been set.

Egypt became the first Arab state to make peace with Israel in 1979 but relations have cooled significantly since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in June. (AFP)

Syria Satisfied With Egypt's Position on Peace

DAMASCUS – Syria on Monday praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for urging Israel to honor and implement faithfully its peace accords with Arabs.

A Syrian official said Damascus was also satisfied with the outcome of a tour of Arab states by Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara which was aimed at rallying support for Syria's demands for peace with Israel.

Syria is satisfied with President Mubarak's remarks saying the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should honor its deals with Arabs and that peace talks with Syria should resume on the basis of land-for-peace (formula), a senior Syrian official told Reuters.

Mubarak made his remarks at a news conference on Sunday just before holding his first formal talks in six months with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Swiss resort of Davos where they were attending the World Economic Forum.

Mubarak called on Israel to implement faithfully recent Middle East peace accords with Arabs, implicitly warning that delay could undermine the Middle East peace process.

Policies and practices which are illegal and inconsistent with the spirit of peace, such as settlement activities, should be avoided and stopped altogether, said Mubarak who played a key intermediary role in brokering Palestinian-Israeli peace deals that began in 1993.

Mubarak also asked Netanyahu to resume peace negotiations with Syria and Lebanon without delay and on the basis of the land-for-peace principle.

Netanyahu, elected last May, rejects Syria's demand that Israel return the Golan Heights – a strategic plateau towering over both countries and captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. Syria insists that the previous Israeli government had approved the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan.

He however told the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* last week he would raise various ideas for breaking the deadlock with Syria when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House next month.

But Syria has not taken the recent statement as a sign of a change of heart by Netanyahu's right-wing government. Damascus says talks must resume where they left off and that Israel had given a private commitment to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights.

The Syrian official reiterated that Israel had agreed, during sporadic talks which began in 1991 and broke off in March 1996, to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel agreed during the talks with Syria to withdraw to the (pre-war) June 4, 1967 lines. The talks should resume from this point, the official told Reuters.

Khaddam and Shara began a tour of Arab countries last week to build up Arab backing for Syria's stand in its political deadlock with Israel. Israel broke off talks after a wave of Islamist bombings in Israel last February and March.

(Reuter)

Murderers Sell Brain for $2.50

HARARE — Two murderers who killed a man and sold his brain to a businessman to use as a lucky charm have been sentenced to death, local media reported Tuesday.

George Chikwamure and Nyenyai Mudenge told the High Court they were paid 25 Zimbabwe dollars ($2.50) for the brain.

They abducted a villager at random and stripped and blindfolded him before stabbing him to death.

The businessman, who is yet to appear in court, then allegedy cut out the brain. (AFP)

Man Spurns Rescue, to Stay With Goats, Chickens

HARARE — A Zimbabwean man refused to allow himself or his family to be airlifted from his flooded village because the rescue chopper would not take his goats and chickens, reports said Wednesday.

The man, who was not named in the reports, turned down the offer from the Zimbabwean airforce for a ride out of his home in the northeastern parts on the country near the border with Mozambique, the reports said.

No news was given on the fate of the family or the livestock — traditionally a symbol of wealth and status in Africa. (AFP)

Albanian President Woos Support of Angry Investors



LUSHNJE, Albania (Feb. 18): A bodyguard stops a man from greeting Albanian President Sali Berisha (R) as he arrives in Lushnje, about 100 kilometers south of Tirana. Speaking in public for the first time since protests began, Berisha admitted responsibility for failed investment schemes that sparked violent street demonstrations and pledged to give "new momentum" to economy by speeding up privatization. (AFP PHOTO)

TIRANA — Albanian President Sali Berisha has launched a charm offensive to win back popular support from angry investors who lost heavily in fraudulent pyramid schemes.

Europe's poorest country has been swept by protests and riots for the past month after tens of thousands of investors lost large sums of money in the failed get-rich-quick schemes.

The ruling free-market democrats have been blamed by many investors for failing to regulate the schemes and for failing to warn investors, who are new to capitalism, of the risks.

After lying low for weeks, Berisha launched his campaign to win back support, admitting that he made mistakes but calling on investors to take their share of the blame for gambling on the dubious schemes.

I came to you to admit errors and mistakes by the ruling goverment, the party and by me, he said in the southern town of Lushnje on Tuesday. But I am open and I can tell you the people are also to blame.

He started addressing the meetings of carefully selected supporters in the capital of Tirana on Saturday and then moved to Lushnje, which was rocked by riots last month.

Barisha, elected by Parliament to a five-year term in 1992, told reporters he would visit the other southern trouble spots – Fier and Vlore – soon for similar meetings. (Reuter)

Deng Critical After Brain Hemorrhage

TOKYO — China's 92-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping is critically ill after suffering a brain hemorrhage, the Japanese daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* reported on Wednesday, quoting sources in the Chinese capital.

According to diplomatic sources in Beijing, the health of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, who has implemented policies of reform..., worsened and he was in a critical condition on February 18, the paper said.

The paper said sources close to senior officials in the Peoples Liberation Army said that Deng had recently suffered a brain haemorrhage.

There has been no big change in comrade Deng Xiaoping's health, Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang told a news briefing. He declined to say what would constitute a major change in the health of the ailing patriarch. (Reuter)

Security Blanket Tight at S. Korean Embassy

BEIJING — Security remained tight late Wednesday around the South Korean Embassy here as a diplomatic solution to the crisis over North Korea's top defector holed up inside appeared to be in sight.

About 100 armed Chinese police wearing riot helmets were posted around the consular section late Wednesday to take over the overnight surveillance of the building where Pyongyang's most senior defector was still ensconced.

The security blanket remained tight as South Korea's Yonhap news agency said negotiations between North Korean and Chinese officials to decide the fate of over Hwang Jang-Yop, 74, appeared to have finished.

Police armed with AK-47 assault manned the barricades blocking the four access routes to the building, while journalists were warned to keep well away from the compound in one of Beijing's diplomatic compounds.

Yonhap said from Beijing that Chinese officials met for 15 minutes with North Korean Ambassador Ju Chang-Jun to discuss the case of Hwang stranded in Seoul's Embassy in Beijing for a week.

"The short talks between Chinese and North Korean officials mean that the two sides' negotiations over Hwang's case were in effect concluded," Yonhap added, quoting an unnamed source.

The report came after China confirmed that Hwang had sought asylum of his own free will. (AFP)

Rebel Leader to Meet Mobutu Representatives

CAPE TOWN — Rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila will travel to South Africa on Thursday to meet representatives of the Zairean government, president Nelson Mandela said Wednesday.

The Zairean government had until Wednesday refused to meet with the rebel leader who has taken charge of a large swathe of the east country since October. But rebel advances in recent weeks have intensified, sparking new international pressure for negotiations.

Mandela, speaking after a summit here with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and presidents Ketumile Masire of Botswana, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, said the two parties in the raging war had agreed to meet "in order to discuss their problems".

They were responding directly to an initiative by Museveni that they declare a truce and meet face-to-face as a prelude to democratic elections in the country, he said. (AFP)

10 Indicted Over Hanbo Scandal as Cover-Up Charges Mount

SEOUL – South Korean prosecutors indicted 10 prominent figures Wednesday over the Hanbo loans scandal as the government prepared an open apology in a bid to divert renewed charges of a cover-up.

But the opposition still demanded, at the opening of a parliamentary probe, that President Kim Young-Sam's second son testify on the scandal.

Those indicted included a sacked home minister, two bank chiefs, three ruling party MPs close to the president, one leading opposition MP, the patriarch of the failed Hanbo group, Chung Tae-Soo and one of his executives. (AFP)

Sharif Collects $150m for Foreign Debts Fund

ISLAMABAD — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Wednesday he had collected $150 million within 72 hours of appealing to overseas Pakistanis for contributions to a new fund to repay the country's foreign debts.

"We have received $150 million within three days," Sharif said adding that response to his appeal was "very encouraging."

Sharif was sworn in as prime minister on Monday after his sweeping victory in February 3 polls when his Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Party trounced Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

He promised in his inaugural speech to make the ailing economy a top priority and he launched the fund to rid the country of its yawning $30 billion foreign loans.

He called upon tens of thousands of Pakistani expatriates to send back a minimum of $1,000 each to overcome the "grave" economic crisis he inherited with depleting foreign exchange reserves.

"We are hopeful many more Pakistanis will come forward" and remittances will further grow, to tide over the problems, Sharif told Parliament after securing a vote of confidence. (AFP)

Sri Lanka Troops Take Tiger Territory, Seven Killed

COLOMBO —Elite army troops captured more territory held by Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka Wednesday as security forces elsewhere killed seven rebels, the Defense Ministry here said.

The special forces commandos advanced another 10 kilometres (six miles) overnight Wednesday after taking the key Madu road junction along a highway linking the northern town of Vavuniya with the north-western Mannar town.

"Troops are moving virtually unopposed because of the tactical nature of the operation," a Defense Ministry official said. Troops advanced a total of about 40 kilometres (24 miles) since mounting the offensive 15 days ago.

Officials said there were sporadic long-range artillery and mortar bomb exchanges but no reports of major casualties.

In the north-eastern district of Weli Oya, troops ambushed a group of Tiger guerrillas on Tuesday and killed at least seven of them, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. There were no casualties among troops. (AFP)

Rifkind Calls On European Leaders to "Come Clean" on Greater Unity

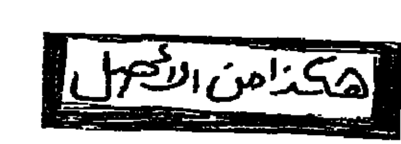
BONN — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind argued forcefully Wednesday against further European political integration in a major speech in Germany, and called on EU leaders to come out and say what kind of Europe they want.

He told a political foundation close to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union Party that Britain believed firmly in a Europe of nation states, not a federal super-state.

However there is an ambiguity among European leaders about the kind of Europe they want, the foreign secretary said, calling on them to say how far they want to go in politically uniting the continent.

Rifkind admitted that European leaders such as Kohl said they did not foresee a United States of Europe or a federal Europe, but asked what the difference was between that and "the kind of ever-closer union they are simultaneously advocating."

"The problem with what is proposed is that in almost every case it means taking power away from institutions which are more legitimate, and giving it to institutions which are less legitimate," he also told the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. (AFP)



EU Ministers Defend Anti-Unemployment Policies

BRUSSELS – European Union Finance Ministers on Monday defended their efforts to combat double-digit unemployment, stressing the problem could not be solved through lax monetary policies or new spending programs.

Meeting against the backdrop of record unemployment in Germany, the ministers said the EU's struggling economy was showing signs of renewed vigor, a development which would gradually help employment growth.

We are now noticing there is a resurgence in growth, Spanish Finance Minister Rodrigo Rato told journalists, adding that closer coordination of economic policies was needed.

The focus of the ministerial meeting was the European Commission's Annual Ececonomic Report, which urges governments to adopt greater labor market flexibility to fight rising unemployment.

In its lengthy review, the EU's executive forecast last week that faster economic growth would have only a limited impact on the current 10.8 percent EU jobless rate.

The moderate strengthening of employment growth in the community in the coming years is expected to be sufficient to achieve only a modest reduction in unemployment, the report said.

Europe's jobless problem has been highlighted as Germany, the EU's main economic engine, struggles with nearly 4.7 million unemployed, the highest level since the 1930s.

The record unemployment rate has raised doubts over Bonn's ability to cut expenditure and bring its budget deficit within the Maastricht Treaty's target.

Under growing political pressure, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel has not yet announced how he plans to deal with an expected shortfall in revenue.

Independent economists have reckoned that the high unemployment rate would add between 10 billion and 18 billion marks ($6-11 billion) to German government spending.

But on Monday, German State Secretary for Finance Juergen Stark said Bonn was prepared to do whatever it took to meet its 2.9 percent deficit-to-GDP target in 1997.

The 2.9 percent is a carefully calculated figure in which we have already considered all recognizable risks, he told a news conference. If we have further decreases in tax revenues we will take further corrective measures.

Stark also said the EU's unemployment problem was structural and could not be solved by more government spending or sharply lower interest rates.

The link between EU governments' drive towards a common currency and unemployment has become more controversial, with many believing that politicians are being handicapped in their ability to follow pro-labor market policies.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean Clad Juncker, however, played down any connection between fiscal austerity and joblessness, stressing the need for new policies.

We have to bring down non-wage labor costs and labor taxes, Juncker, who is also finance minister, told reporters before the meeting.

Separately, the finance ministers endorsed the efforts Belgium has made towards meeting the Maastricht Treaty's criteria on deficits, interest rates and inflation.

In March, the ministers will review new economic convergence plans from Germany and France. *(Reuter)*

Fitter Public Finances Give UK Government a Boost

LONDON – Britain's ruling Conservatives received a huge pre-election boost on Tuesday when official figures showed a flood of tax receipts allowed it to pay off almost 6.0 billion pounds (9.5 billion) of national debt in January.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said tax revenues exceeded public spending by 5.818 billion pounds in the month, the biggest monthly surplus since records began in 1989.

The big debt repayment brings total borrowing in the fiscal year so far to 10.34 billion pounds, a vast improvement on the 19.34 billion pounds borrowed in the same period last year.

Chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke swooped on the figures as evidence his economic policies were working.

Today's figures are further confirmation that borrowing is on a clear downward path. We are now comfortably on track for the budget forecast and I am hopeful we will do even better than that, he said.

City forecasters, who had expected a smaller 3.5 billion pound repayment, said the figures showed the public purse was finally seeing the benefits of economic recovery and the government was on course to beat its own forecast for 1996/97.

Clarke had forecast a total public deficit of 26.4 billion pounds. The figures are very encouraging indeed. Not only are we seeing a good corporation tax take, but value-added tax (vat) is growing extremely strongly and departmental spending seems to be falling into line with government forecasts, said Ian Stewart, UK economist at Merrill Lynch.

Stewart said even if February and March saw no improvement at all in public finances compared with last year, borrowing in the fiscal year would total 22.7 billion pounds, 3.7 billion pounds below forecast.

And if they see the same improvement in February and March that we've seen in the fiscal year so far, the total will be just 17.0 billion pounds, over 9.0 billion below forecast.

The public finances have so far been the major black spot in an otherwise exemplary economic recovery, which combines steady growth with low inflation.

The government has been particularly concerned that vat receipts have failed to pick up during the recovery by as much it projected.

In January, 5.2 billion pounds of vat was paid over compared with 3.3 billion last January. While this marked improvement will be welcomed, economists calculate vat receipts were swollen by around 1.5 billion pounds through changes in the timing of tax collection which will be unwound in the months ahead.

Corporation tax receipts totaled 7.7 billion pounds in January, up 7.0 percent since last January.

The figures will rob opposition labor of an opportunity to attack the government's handling of the economy, but the party stands to benefit if, as opinion polls suggest, it wins power in the election, due to be held by May.

Recent reports have suggested that the next government, of whichever party, would have to either increase tax significantly or take an ax to public spending in order to make the books balance in the medium term.

Economists said they were impressed that the government appears to be keeping departmental spending in check so close to an election. Outlays are growing at 2.7 percent against government forecasts of 2.2 percent, but are 0.6 percent lower than last year. Spending is still running ahead of forecasts but not by a great amount, and by nowhere near the overshoot we saw ahead of the last election, said Stewart.

(Reuter)

Troubled Ukraine Farms Need More Than New Minister

KIEV – The sacking of Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Anatoly Khorishko is unlikely to help to reverse a slump in grain output which is costing the former breadbasket billions of dollars in lost exports, grain experts said on Tuesday.

President Leonid Kuchma spoke of serious inadequacies in the troubled ministry's operations when he ordered the sacking last Friday. but he has not yet named a replacement to lead the once prodigious grain grower into the market era.

Personally i don't think it will make any difference, a western expert said, referring to the dismissal.

Ukraine's agro-business sector, like land ownership, is firmly political, economic and social. Both sectors are run by the government, said the expert, who asked not to be named.

Ukraine produced harvests of 50 million tons a year in the soviet era and was once known as Europe's breadbasket. It was a key supplier to neighbors such as Russia.

While collective farms are now owned by workers, they are still grossly inefficient.

There are only a handful of private farmers, producers still rely on state handouts to plant and harvest crops, there is only a rudimentary grain market and the state can still intervene to block exports on fears of bread shortages at home.

Khorishko's sudden removal from office is the latest in a series of changes at the agriculture ministry, which has been unable to reverse catastrophic output declines as Kiev struggles to cast off the planned economy.

The appointment of a new farm minister has become an almost annual event in Ukraine since independence from the soviet union in 1991, as a string of poor crops reduces the country's export potential and upsets cabinet officials. A western diplomat said the sacking could mark a change for the better, but it depended on who the replacement was.

Nothing has been happening in the agriculture ministry for the last couple of months, he said. it's been dead. I hope whoever they pick next will make the appearance of wanting to change something.

The dismissal came just before Ukraine's spring sowing season, which is likely to mark the start of another cycle of fuel shortages, broken farm machinery and unpaid wages – all of which have pushed down grain output in recent years.

Khorishko was appointed last summer after a drought was blamed for a record-low grain crop of 24.5 million tons, far below 1995's less than stellar 36.5 million tons.

Stephan Von Cramon-Taubadel, agriculture analyst for the German Advisory Group on economic reforms, said Khorishko's sacking came as no surprise.

Kuchma has publicly criticized the ministry before. he said it was far too technocratic, he said.

Cramon-taubadel said the ministry was using central planning methods inherited from soviet times, such as meeting production quotas rather than responding to market forces. They're not planning agriculture policy, per se, he said.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and world bank are putting a lot of pressure on agricultural progress, he said. A lot is being expected of the ministry and it's a tough ministry to lead. I don't see it as a very thankful job.

Perhaps with this in mind – and a multi-billion dollar IMF loan under negotiation -- Kuchma told a meeting of agricultural authorities last month that the ministry's structure, unchanged since the 1940s, had to change to cope with the task of developing a modern agricultural sector. *(Reuter)*

Neighboring Country's Support Lends Sharp Increase to Afghan Currency Value in North

Kabul — Financial support from neighboring country has spectacularly increased the value of afghan currency used by northern leader general Abdul Rashid Dostom, travelers reaching Kabul said Monday.

"The afghani, which had decreased in value to over 120,000 to the dollar, is now worth around 18,000," a Western traveler told AFP.

The dramatic increase in value of the afghani over the past two days has been attributed to a huge buying operation by a bank in Dostom's northern capital of Mazar-i-Sharif.

The massive influx of U.S. dollars -- which unconfirmed reports from both Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif say comes from a neighboring country – have been used to stem the nose-dive of Dostom's rapidly depreciating afghani.

In Taliban-controlled Kabul, the afghani is currently traded at around 22,000 to the dollar.

The depreciation of the afghani in Dostom's northern fiefdom was the cause of much financial hardship for the civilian population. It also weakened the morale of Dostom's' fighting force.

"There is a much more confident mood in Mazar now," the traveler said.

The expected drop in food prices following this meteoric increase in the value of the afghani should help to stabilize Dostom's administration which now faces a looming military threat from the Taliban.

The same neighboring country has also reportedly airlifted large amounts of food supplies to Mazar-i-Sharif and donated arms and ammunition to Dostom's ally, Ahmad Shah Masood.

There are also unconfirmed reports that military support from Russia in the form of heavy armor has reached Dostom and Masood.

(Dispatches)

France Telecom Privatisation Set to Start in May Report

PARIS – France telecom will put one fifth of its shares up for sale beginning May 20, La Tribune Financial daily reported Wednesday.

The paper said France telecom shares would be quoted on the Paris bourse from June.

La Tribune said the partial privatization was expected to bring "about 25 billion Francs ($5 billion)" into state coffers.

The report said the government expected some six million French investors to take up the offer of a stake in France telecom.

La Tribune said prospective investors would be able to sign up to buy shares, in the third week of May. "The subscription period will last for six working days," the paper said.

Private investors would be committed to a price bracket determined at the start of the operation but the price of the shares would not be set definitely until the end of May "because under the sale process, the government will have eight days to determine the share price", La Tribune said.

The Finance Ministry will take into account both demand for shares and the assessment of the group's value to be determined at the end of May by the privatization board.

Once this is done, it will be possible for France telecom shares to be quoted both on the Paris bourse and on Wall Street, the paper said. *(AFP)*

Weeping Icons Spark Fears of Doom and Gloom in Cyprus

NICOSIA — In a tiny white-washed church in the old village of Strovolos just outside Nicosia, dozens of Greek- Cypriots flock past a 16th century icon hoping to see tears welling from the eyes of a Madonna and child.

It is the latest church on this deeply religious Mediterranean island where worshippers claim to have witnessed a weeping icon, a phenomenon — whether an optical illusion or indeed a miracle — interpreted here as an ominous sign for the future of Cyprus.

Alarmed by mounting tension between the divided Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot communities, warnings of bleak economic times ahead, a series of earthquakes and the worst drought in a decade, the Greek Orthodox Christians of Cyprus are seeking solace in their faith.

"Is the undisputed event of the tear-shedding Madonna of Kykkos a miracle or an extraordinary event or even a concocted occurrence?"

"Only God knows what it means, but it is a miracle," whispered one elderly woman worshipper who said she saw tears fall from the eyes of the Virgin Mary and another icon of Saint George at Ayios Georgios Church in Strovolos.

Tens of thousands of people have made their way to Kykkos Monastery in the central Troodos Mountains since the first weeping Virgin and child was sighted there two weeks ago, shedding thick, fragrant tears, according to eyewitnesses.

Worshippers have also reported at least six crying icons in another church in the village of Mammari in the UN-patrolled buffer zone dividing the island.

"Is the undisputed event of the tear-shedding Madonna of Kykkos a miracle or an extraordinary event or even a concocted occurrence?" columnist Sofronis Sofroniou wrote in the *Cyprus Mail* last week.

Whatever the truth, Sofroniou wrote, "The Virgin Mary has every reason to feel pity for us as the Cyprus problem is forever moving away from rather than towards its resolution."

The church, which still wields great political power, has seized on the icons as an opportunity to encourage people back to church.

At Kykkos Monastery, Abbot Nikiforous said donations from churchgoers who flocked to see the weeping icon have topped 40,000 pounds ($80,000) and would go to a government-run fund towards the island's defense, matched by an equal sum from the monastery.

Archbishop Chrysostomos, the primate of the Orthodox Church in Cyprus, said the tears were a "divine omen" of the dangers facing the people of Cyprus.

"The tears could be a warning sign of some coming evil or a sign to the people to return to the right road to God," he said recently.

"There are two options. It could mean the Holy Virgin is seeking the prayers of the people to God in addition to her own and their repentance, or it could be a warning of a calamity."

Around 82 percent of the population of all of Cyprus are Orthodox Christians and it is rare to find a Greek-Cypriot home without some sort of icon in a prominent place, along with candles, incense or oil lamps.

Michael Mueller, anthropologist at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, said such "miraculous" sightings occurred often throughout history in times of war or political upheaval.

"When there is a tremendous amount of stress or crisis in society, people begin to see miracles. The phenomenon is a manifestation of people's hopes and fears," he said.

"After 23 years, people are starting to fear that there will be no solution to the Cyprus problem, that there could be a religious war, and are turning to their faith," he added.

Unease is heightened by the critical water shortage here, where supplies at around one fifth of their normal levels have prompted strict rationing, and fears for the economic health of Cyprus.

It is facing a possible recession in 1997 because of slow growth, exacerbated by a 40 percent decline in early tourist reservations to the holiday island and a drop in share prices blamed on the rising political tension.

Monastery officials say that in the beginning of February a young novice saw that the icon had started to weep.

Since then claims of weeping icons, heralded by the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus as a divine omen, have been reported from the village of Mammari, 20 km (12 miles) west of Nicosia and at a church in the Nicosia suburb of Strovolos.

Belief in miracles associated with icons — weeping, bleeding or instant cures — is not uncommon in Cyprus, which boasts a church tracing its lineage back to Christ's first companions, known to Christians as the Apostles.

"While weeping icons of Virgin Mary are not uncommon, a Weeping Jesus is, prompting debate of what it all means," said theologist Demetrios Athanassoulas.

"There are two options. It could mean the Holy Virgin is seeking the prayers of the people to God in addition to her own and their repentance, or it could be a warning of a calamity," he told Reuters. *(Dispatches)*

Japanese Temple to Open Cemetery on the Internet

TOKYO — In Japan it will soon be possible to be virtually dead.

A Buddhist temple in the city of Hiroshima, western Japan, plans to open a virtual graveyard on the Internet.

Visitors will be able to choose different types of electronic tombstones and include photos of the deceased and family records on a web page.

They will also be able to create their own memorials in advance and leave informal wills for their families.

Yukihiro Takada, a monk at the Kannonin Temple, said the idea came from people who live too far away from the temple to visit but wanted to tend family memorials and pay respects to ancestors.

"After we announced we would offer a virtual cemetery, about 200 people asked to register, including Japanese people living overseas," Takada said.

He said they included people whose relatives graves had been destroyed in the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

The virtual graveyard is expected to be launched on the temples homepage by the end of February and the temple will make no charge for putting gravestones on it.

"Kannonins Homepage (http://www.urban.or.jp/home/kanjizai/), at which visitors are greeted by the smiling face of the temples senior monk, already boasts about 20,000 retrievals a month," Takada said.

The Kannonin Temple, belonging to the Shingon Buddhist sect, which has about 70,000 adherents, also runs an Internet cafe.

Takada said the temple had had requests for virtual graves for pets, such as dogs, cats and birds.

Virtual pets already have their own graveyard on the Kannonin Homepage.

Electronic pet birds known as Tamagocchi, which live on key-ring-sized, are the latest craze to sweep Japan. Tamagocchi owners must feed, play with and discipline their pets, which die if not cared for properly.

The Tamagocchi graveyard page has had about 6,000 hits since the beginning of February. *(Reuter)*

Taylor Enters Hospital for Brain Surgery

LOS ANGELES — Actress Elizabeth Taylor underwent hospital tests Tuesday to prepare for surgery later this week to remove a benign tumor from the lining of her brain, a hospital spokesman said.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center spokesman Ron Wise said her "doctors have not told me exactly when the surgery will take place, but my guess is that it's sometime this week."

The surgery was originally set for Monday but was pushed back because Taylor is battling the flu. *(AFP)*

Bloody Fingerprint Found at Simpson Murder Scene

NEW YORK — A bloody fingerprint was found at the scene of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman but police bungling destroyed it, controversial former Los Angeles Police Detective Mark Fuhrman says in a new book published recently.

Fuhrman, whose own role in the case became a major issue during O.J. Simpson's criminal trial for the murder of his ex-wife and Goldman, said he was shocked the detectives who took over from him at the murder scene never examined the fingerprint found on the lock of the back gate of Nicole Brown Simpson's home.

"They had not noticed it and also failed to read his crime scene notes, in which the bloody fingerprint was clearly mentioned," he said.

"Other than an eyewitness report or a confession, you can't get a more powerful single piece of evidence than a fresh bloody fingerprint at a crime scene. Had the bloody fingerprint been properly handled and analyzed, it alone could have put the case away," Fuhrman said in his book, murder in Brentwood, from Regnery Publishers.

Fuhrman added, "What happened to this crucial piece of evidence? Somehow, the fingerprint was lost, and so, eventually, was the case."

In the book, the latest in an avalanche of books by Simpson case participants to make an appearance since the 1994 murders, Fuhrman blamed police bungling for losing major pieces of evidence that would have convicted Simpson of the murder of his ex-wife and her friend.

He also said prosecutor Marcia Clark exacerbated the incompetence by failing to call to the stand Fuhrman's police partner at the murder scene, Brad Roberts, who would have confirmed Fuhrman's account.

Fuhrman was among the first policemen called to the scene of the murders at 875 South Bundy and the discoverer of a bloody glove on the grounds of Simpson's nearby estate that matched one found at the murder scene.

Simpson's lawyers accused him of planting the glove at Simpson's estate, allegedly motivated by racism. Fuhrman apologized in the book for having used racist language, something he swore on the stand he had not done in 10 years.

"Other than an eyewitness report or a confession, you can't get a more powerful single piece of evidence than a fresh bloody fingerprint at a crime scene. Had the bloody fingerprint been properly handled and analyzed, it alone could have put the case away."

Simpson was found not guilty at his criminal trial in October 1995 of the murders, but a civil court jury last month held him liable for the deaths and ordered him to pay $33 million in various damages.

In an interview with Diane Sawyer which was to be shown last week on ABC's Primetime Live, Fuhrman said he kept quiet for two years about the evidence that Detective Tom Lange and his colleague Philip Vannatter missed.

"There's people that say I was the cause of the criminal case to fail. I ate that for two years, sitting on all this information."

He said Vannatter and Lange were so star-struck that they made the major mistake of only interviewing Simpson for a half-hour when they had the chance to question him for longer without a lawyer present.

"Lange and Vannatter spent a grand total of 32 minutes interviewing the only suspect in a high-profile double murder case. I have interrogated vandalism suspects longer than that," he said in his book.

Fuhrman said there were other pieces of evidence that were not properly followed up, including the discovery of a pair of dark sweatpants found in the washing machine at Simpson's home and blood found on the light switch in Simpson's laundry room. Also discovered was an empty box for a Swiss army knife that was found on Simpson's bathtub. The knife was never recovered, he said. *(Reuter)*

India Wants to Deport Charles Sobhraj to France

NEW DELHI — The Indian government decided on Tuesday to drop all pending cases against notorious criminal Charles Sobhraj and pressed for his speedy deportation to France.

A special public prosecutor moved an application in a local court to withdraw a jailbreak case against Sobhraj and said permission was being sought to withdraw all other pending cases against him to pave the way for his deportation.

The Indian government has decided to deport Charles Sobhraj to France immediately saying his presence in India is prejudicial to the state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency quoted the prosecution lawyer as saying.

Two cases are still pending in Indian courts against Sobhraj. One concerns a lapsed Thai extradition request, while the other stems from a 1986 jailbreak that earned Sobhraj fame.

Sobhraj would not spend more time in jail even if convicted since the maximum penalty would be less than the 11 years he has served since his escape, his lawyer Rajan Bakshi said.

A French citizen born to an Indian father and a Vietnamese mother, Sobhraj told reporters last week that he would stay in India for some months before going to France to work on a $15 million film based on his life.

A Foreign Ministry official said the government's prime concern was to ensure that Sobhraj left the country's boundaries and it was taking steps to ensure that happened.

A French Embassy official in New Delhi refused to confirm that there had been any communication from the Indian government on Sobhraj's proposed deportation to France.

"I cannot confirm or deny it but if he is a French citizen, as he claims to be, then France will have to accept him," the official said.

Bakshi said that if the government dropped all the charges his client would have to leave the country.

Since he is a foreign national the government has every right to decide whether it wants to grant him permission to stay in India or deport him, Bakshi said.

"We are only interested in his freedom, as long as he is a free man we don't really bother," he added.

On Monday Sobhraj, whose exploits across Asia have been the basis of two books, won release from prison after more than two decades behind bars but police detained him again saying he did not have valid identity papers.

Deputy Police Commissioner Pradeep Srivastava told Reuters that the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which issued papers to foreigners, had ordered Sobhraj detained.

"He claims he is a French citizen but he does not have valid documents," said a police official.

Srivastava said the FRRO had ordered Sobhraj detained in a local police station until March 2.

Sobhraj was first arrested in India for holding up a hotel jewelry shop in 1971. He has since been charged with a long string of crimes including murder, serving time for some and winning acquittal in others.

Sobhraj's lawyer Bakshi said there was no charge against Sobhraj and prepared to move fresh court appeals on Tuesday to secure his client's release.

"I feel great, like I'm born again," Sobhraj told reporters minutes before he was detained. Asked if he would revert to crime, Sobhraj said: "Never. Never ever." *(Reuter)*

Swiss-Belgian Team Aim for Global Balloon Refrial

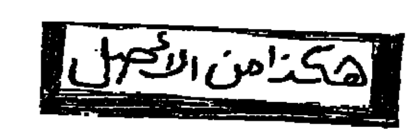
GENEVA — A Swiss-Belgian team that failed to balloon non-stop around the world in January announced here Tuesday it would try its luck again next year, having isolated the reason why the trip had to be aborted.

Bertrand Piccard and Wim Berstraeten had to land in the Mediterranean due to a leak of kerosene less than six hours after their balloon — the Breitling Orbiter — took off from a resort in the Swiss Alps.

The culprit was a clip near the kerosene tank, which came unstuck after the balloon left its moorings.

British balloon maker Don Cameron has decided to slightly change the design of the damaged prototype which will be inflated with a mixture of hot air and helium.

The next trial is penned in for January 1998 at the alpine station of Chateau d'Oex. *(AFP)*





They're Closing In on Prostate Cancer

PART 3

Drugs that interfere with its production can block the growth of prostate tumors, at least for a while. Diethylstilbestrol, an oral estrogen, is one drug used; others are leuprolide acetate, goserelin acetate, flutamide and ketoconazole.

Hormone treatment is usually reserved for the most advanced prostate cancers, but brief courses of the therapy may be used to shrink tumors prior to surgery and radiation. It can produce hot flashes (similar to those women experince during menopause), as well as irritability and weight gain. Ninety percent of patients become impotent and have no sex drive.

Cancer cells eventually mutate to resist the drugs. How soon this happens varies, but only about 25 percent of prostate-cancer patients treated with hormone therapy survive more than five years. To foil resistant cancer cells, researchers are experimenting with a regimen of six months on hormones, six months off. During the off-time, libido returns and the menopausal symtoms fade. Early results are encouraging, though the strategy is still being tested.

"Watchful waiting." This course is pursued by many older men and some younger ones with uncertain diagnoses. Patients get no treatment, just frequent monitoring — PSA testing, plus ultrasound imaging, DRE and biopsies as needed.

There's no set age when doctors will typically suggest leaving a tumor alone. And no long-term medical studies exist to show that watchful waiting is a good strategy. When patients and doctors choose this regimen, they make an educated guess that the cancer won't grow out of control. According to new guidelines by the American Urological Association, patients "must understand at the outset that delay may compromise the effectiveness of subsequent treatment, if any should become necessary."

"All issues surrounding watchful waiting need to be fully discussed with the patient, including the need for possible subsequent biopsies," says University of Pennsylvania Medical Center and Health System urologist Dr. Alan Wein. "I feel this is reasonable for some older men, but risky for younger patients."

Alternative therapies. These include chemotherapy drugs such as Taxol, Taxotere, estramustine phosphate and etoposide. Researchers are also working on vaccines to help a man's immune system fight his cancer.

Larry Karl, 51, of Pittsburgh underwent an experimental treatment called cryosurgery. In this procedure, doctors freeze the prostate by inserting liquid-nitrogen probes into it. When the gland thaws, cancer cells rupture and die. Karl had four treatments; the procedure doesn't always kill all cancer cells the first time. Surgon Jeffrey Cohen of Pittsburgh's Allegheny General Hospital reports that about 80 percent of 500 men have "no biopsy evidence of cancer" two years after cryosurgery.

The main reason for caution regarding cryosurgery is its short track record. The procedure is less accepted than brachytherapy and *is reserved for patients who are* poor candidates for surgery or radiation.

The options for screening and treating prostate cancer keep increasing. Ultimately, the course of action a man elects to follow depends on his age, health, extent of disease and quality-of-life preferences.

After seeking all the advice he could get, Ron Slaymaker decided on prostate surgery preceded by hormone therapy to shrink the tumor. Today, he's recovered and back on the job.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," says Slaymaker. He urges men to get as much information as possible — because ignorance is not bliss. *(Courtesy Reader's Digest)*

China Launches "Patriotic" Health Program

BEIJING — Monday launched a "patriotic" health program aimed at stemming the growing deterioration in the availability of health care.

A Communist Party article carried by the major media said "medical workers are urged to resist greed, materialism, individualism, and any behavior that is not in society's interest."

The country's growing economy had created an "imbalance" in health care availability with doctors increasingly attracted by wealth which forced up prices of medicine beyond the reach of the bulk of the population, it said.

"A system of internal supervision is to the developed to correct malpractice among doctors," the statement said.

To boost health care "intermediate level urban doctors are asked to work in county or township medical institutions for half a year or a full year before being appointed to senior academic posts," it added.

It also warned there would be a crackdown "on the production and sale of fake or shoddy pharmaceutical products, and close down illegal pharmaceutical products markets or shops, and paying or receiving kick-backs in the sale and purchase of pharmaceutical products."

Controls would also be tightened "on private medical businesses and other medical services. Reforms should include public health institutions and a system of hospital director responsibility to expand their power."

The central government would provide financial support for some key fields "such as rural medicare, preventative health care, and traditional Chinese medicine," it said.

But "township enterprises and other economic groups should pay for part of rural medicare and cooperative medicare."

"Medical costs will be shared by the state, the employer, and the employee. in reasonable proportions," it said. adding that "by the year 2000 all cities and towns will basically have a medical insurance system, and other kinds of supplementary medical insurance should be encouraged."

(AFP)

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S_1 D_2 T_1 E_1 Q_{10} E_1 U_1 — Double Word Score — RACK 2

F_4 A_1 E_1 F_4 S_1 R_1 T_1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 3

C_3 D_2 E_1 O_1 E_1 E_1 N_1 — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 120-130

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

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O_1 R_1 B_3 I_1 T_1 A_1 L_1 — RACK 2 = 59

S_1 T_1 A_1 T_1 U_1 T_1 E_1 — RACK 3 = 57

T_1 I_1 N_1 G_2 L_1 E_1 — RACK 4 = 14

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THOUGHT

An idle brain is the devil's workshop.

(Proverb)

PRAYER

Noon..........12:18
Evening..........18:12
Dawn (tomorrow)..........05:12
Sunrise (tomorrow)..........06:46

Brazil Launches Campaign Against Dengue-Bearing Mosquito

WASHINGTON — The Brazilian government will invest nearly four million dollars to try to curb the proliferation of a mosquito that carries dengue, a sometimes deadly tropical virus.

A vast public education and prevention campaign against the "aedes aegypti" mosquito is being launched in 15 of Brazil's 27 states.

The government's 3.8 million dollar public education campaign will set the stage for an eradication plan that calls for wiping out the mosquito by 1999 with larvicides and clean ups of sites where they breed.

More than 166,000 people came down with dengue in 1996 with the largest numbers of cases reported in Bahia, Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro.

But the mosquito, which also carries yellow fever and proliferates during the rainy season, has been detected in nearly every state in Brazil.

People exposed to the virus for the first time suffer flu symptoms. Exposed a second time, they can develop hemorrhagic dengue, which can be fatal.

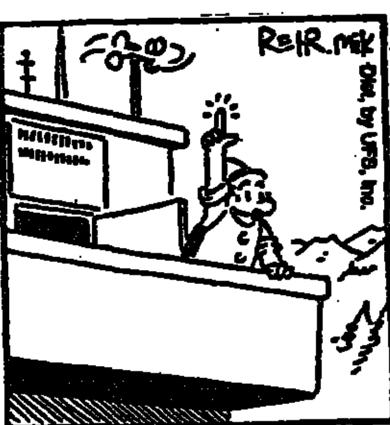
(AFP)

FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr

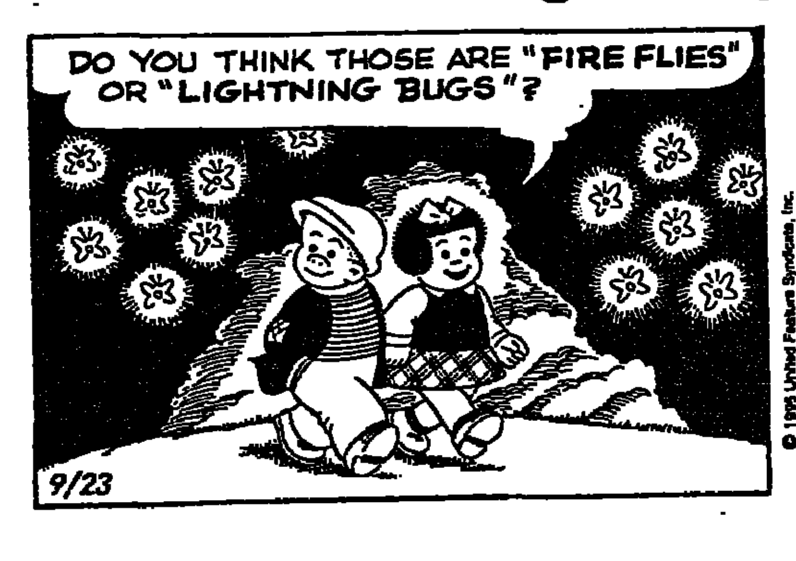


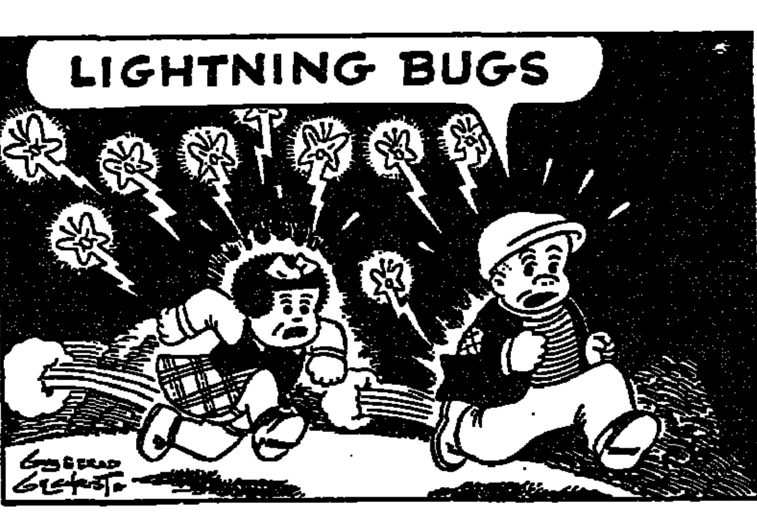


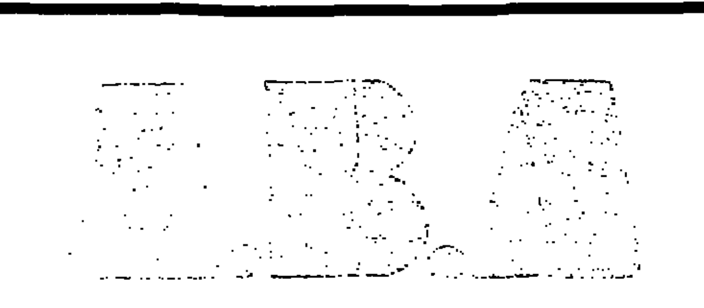




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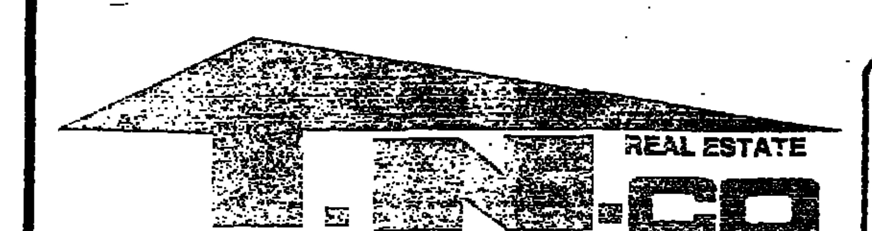




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Local and/or international companies & manufacturers willing to participate in the tender, may refer to the Secretariat of Purchasing & Contracts Dept. (P&C Dept.) located at Room 305, Bldg. No. 5 (Deputy Managing Director for Finance, Procurement & manpower), Dr. Shariati Ave. within office hours and submit the bank receipt depositing the amount of Rls. 10,000 (ten thousand rials) to TCI's Account No. 90018 with Bank Melli Iran, Dr. Shariati Branch and receive the tender documents.

Taking the content into consideration, the bidders shall submit their proposals to the Secretariat of P&C Dept. at the above address up to 2:00 P.M. on Sunday April 5, 1997 against a receipt..

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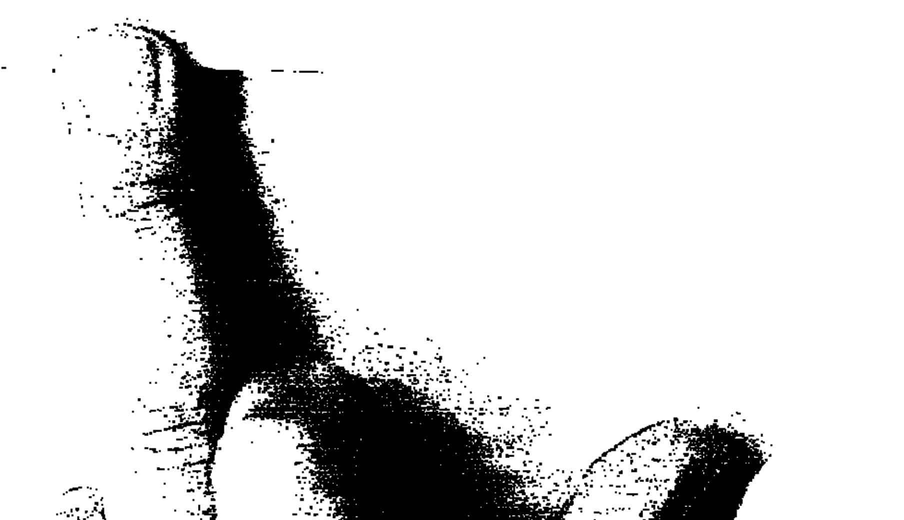
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Rural Dwellers Turn Deaf Ear to Belgrade Political Clamor

BRESJE, Yugoslavia — In the backwoods of rural Serbia, three months of opposition protests for more democracy have had little echo, and as far as Dejan Vujicic and his wife are concerned, all politicians are crooks anyway.

In the small hamlet of Brésje perched on a hill barely 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Belgrade, the momentous events which have drawn the attention of the international media since November, are all but ignored.

Dejan, 24, his hands black with oil from fiddling with the entrails of his battered tractor, said: "Anyway, there is no such thing as an honest politician. The old folks say that under the Turks, they were already stealing money from the people. There's no reason to think these will be any different."

His 20-year-old wife, Ana, cradling her baby, echoed his sentiments: "I couldn't care less who is in power. All I want is peace."

Rural havens such as this are the bedrock of President Slobodan Milosevic's power base. It was in the countryside that the embattled Serbian head of state registered his highest electoral scores in last November's controversial local elections.

Though he suffered defeat in 14 of the country's 18 big cities, he won in more than three-quarters of Serbia's smaller 189 communes.

Country-dwellers, who earn little revenue but receive wads of prized foreign currency from relatives working in Europe, Australia or North America, have for decades tended to vote for those in power.

Plumped in front of a huge television set bought in France and coupled to a satellite antenna on the roof, Nikola, aged 64, contended that all of Bresje's inhabitants were staunch supporters of the ruling Socialist Party (PSP) "except for three men.

"None of this business of demonstrations and opposition concerns us, it has nothing to do with us," he said.

"I say we should do what those in power in Belgrade tell us. The rest is over our heads." He added: "The only thing I want to change is my wife. This one is too old."

Ten kilometers (six miles) down the road lies the main town in the area, Svilajnac, a prosperous place which is home to 5,000 people. The townsfolk are proud of their newly-paved pedestrian lane and of the stores where the emigrants return each summer to splash their foreign cash about.

Zivoslav Avramovic, a rotund man 45 years of age, runs a lamp shop that doubles up as an under-the-counter foreign exchange dealers.

"Our mayor's a socialist and he does a good job," he said as a stream of customers filed past, clutching German 100-mark bills. "We live well and he gives everyone a chance to work."

Avramovic said that when the international community slapped sanctions against the Milosevic regime, during the war in neighboring Bosnia, Mayor Dobrivoje Budimirovic responded by legalizing the sale of smuggled cigarettes.

"The tax police from Belgrade turned up here one day to seize the cigarettes, but Bidza (the mayor's nickname) forced them to give them back," he said with a grin.

"He's a friend, the people voted for him. We don't care whether he's a socialist or not, and we don't care about the goings-on in Belgrade either!"

Svilajnac and its surrounding hamlets lie well outside the boundaries of regions that receive news broadcast by the private, independent media headquartered in the capital. Independent newspapers began hitting the town's news-stands only this month.

"That's where our problem lies," sighed Milivoje Radovanovic, a lawyer who belongs to the opposition Serbian Renewal Party (SPO).

"People here only see state-run television and they're frightened.

They're told that if they don't vote for the SPS, the hospital will be closed down and the electricity cut off in the monastery. And they believe all this."

"The mayor won the (November) election here thanks to the 21 outlying hamlets," added Miroslav Nikolic, who also belongs to the SPO. "We have tried to tell the farmers that it isn't right that he became so rich so quickly. But they think this is in the order of things, that the boss always becomes rich."

"Everything hinges on Milosevic here for now, but things will change," he added.

A 73-year-old shuffled past, pushing his battered bicycle. "My pension is only 240 dinars (around $40) and I had to wait three months to get it. Do you really think the opposition will change things for me? They would lie just like the others."

(AFP)

Latvia Said Ready to Discuss Alternatives to NATO Membership

MOSCOW — The head of Latvia's Parliament has said Latvia is ready to bend to Russia's concerns and discuss alternatives to NATO membership, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Alfred Cepanis, the Latvian Parlilament's speaker reportedly made his comments in Moscow on Tuesday.

"I told Russian (Parliament) Speaker Gennady Seleznyov that such a conversation will be possible only when Russia offers variants to ensure Latvian security," he said. "But, frankly, we do not see such possibilities ... There are few of us, Latvians, and we want to preserve ourselves as far as possible as a nation and an independent state."

The Latvian official also asked Russia not to raise the matter of the status of Russian-speakers in Latvia at international level.

"Everything is far from being well with the position of Russian-speaking residents of Latvia, but we are taking steps to improve it," ITAR-TASS quoted him as saying.

(AFP)

Romania Looks to France to Help It Join NATO

BUCHAREST — Romania will welcome French President Jacques Chirac amid high expectations that France can tilt the tables in favor of Romania when its application to join NATO comes up at a key summit on enlargement later this year.

Chirac who will be accompanied by three ministers, including the foreign and interior ministers, will be the first foreign head of state to visit Bucharest officially since the election in November of Christian-democrat Emil Constantinescu to the presidency.

Romania, the erstwhile "enfant terrible" of the Warsaw Pact, decided several years ago to make joining NATO and the European Union its principal foreign policy goals.

The new regime believes the departure of former President Ion Iliescu, – a former communist leader – and the arrival of a coalition resolved to "bury for good" the the legacy of 40 years of communism and adopt Western ways, have seriously enhanced Romania's chances of joining the Atlantic Alliance.

"Romania is a nation which since its birth 2,000 years ago on the fringe of the Roman Empire, has expected much but received little from the West in whose defense it has spilled much blood," Constantinescu said in an interview with AFP.

"For the first time, we have nothing particular to ask France because Paris supports us beyond even what we expected," he said, recalling France's explicit and repeated calls for Romania to be admitted to NATO "in the first round" and not after more favored candidates like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Romania is hoping Chirac's visit will help rally other NATO countries to support Romania. "In this race against time, Romania needs a powerful strong and intelligent advocate who can modify a decision which might seem to be a foregone conclusion," Constantinescu said in a reference to the NATO Summit set for July in Madrid.

"Such an advocate is France and President Chirac," he said.

"I have found that month after month, week after week, other voices have joined that of France, like Italy, Greece, Turkey and Spain. The important thing is that no one has actually said no," Constantinescu said.

"I personally believe that Germany will finally back Romania, not only because France does, but also for strategic reasons because NATO without Poland and Romania would have no sense," he said.

Romanian leaders say their country has become "a pillar of regional stability". They point to the recent signature of a treaty with Hungary, its good relations with Serbia and Bulgaria and progress in discussions with Moldova, Ukraine and Russia.

"The French have a strong sense of national pride. They can understand that for us, this is firstly a matter of dignity. Why should Romania which is a perfectly democratic country, be treated differently from the Czechs and Poles?" he said. (AFP)

Prime Minister's Mail Easy Read for Swedes

STOCKHOLM — It's difficult for the prime minister of Sweden to have any secrets — anyone can read his mail.

Under Swedish laws that make government documents and files from public institutions available to anyone interested, the prime minister's mail, both incoming and outgoing, is available to all and sundry.

Each day the doors to the prime minister's mail room in central Stockholm are flung open — and on average one person a day makes use of traditional Swedish openness to peruse through the leader of the nation's post.

"Letters ranging from a formal exchange with U.S. President Bill Clinton to a request from Swedish citizen Karl Staben for a T-shirt are open for public scrutiny," says Mats Andersson, who answers the letters — and about half receive a reply.

If letters include a request for money or ask how to seek political asylum in Sweden, they legally require government action.

"Of course there are always letters from people who say they are Jesus," said Andersson, who leads a team of seven that opens, reads and files the prime minister's mail.

"But if our Jesus says he wants 5,000 crowns ($676) from the government, then we have to answer it."

Some Letters Go Unanswered

Some letters, however, are regarded as not serious and go unanswered.

Under Swedish laws that make government documents and files from public institutions available to anyone interested, the prime minister's mail, both incoming and outgoing, is available to all and sundry.

One, which was put in the not serious tray, was a request to investigate the possibility that whales, angered by being disturbed by ship engines, caused the Estonia ferry disaster in which 852 people died.

The ferry sank in a storm in 1994 on its way from Estonia to Sweden.

"(The writer) was convinced the whales became so angry because of this that they sank the Estonia and if we don't look into this, it's bound to happen again," he said.

About 99 percent of the letters are from Swedes.

"The letters from foreigners are mostly from people who want autographs," Andersson said.

"These are answered with a standard autographed photo of Sweden's current prime minister, Goran Persson," he said.

"My mother and father think taxes are too high in Sweden, so they can't afford to buy a lot of presents for me."

Some documents are kept away from prying eyes and classified secret, if officials deem the public would be harmed if certain information was published.

These include letters containing military secrets and those about business deals involving state-owned companies.

However, most of the prime minister's mail is available for anyone to read.

The letters are kept on file indefinitely, moved from the office to a larger archive before they are submitted to the official state archive which has documents dating back to the 10th century.

"We even keep President Clinton's letters here," said Ulla Hildert, one of the two public servants who file the prime minister's mail.

Some of them are classified as secret but there are also some that you can have a look at if you want.

Prime Minister Receives 10,000 Letters a Year

Persson receives about 10,000 letters a year but only 60 to 70 will be sent to him for a signed reply.

"He reads all the letters he signs," said Andersson, who is one of Persson's political advisers.

Andersson chooses which letters and e-mail messages will be answered and which will be passed on to the prime minister.

He said the mail reflects popular opinion in Sweden.

Before former Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin was forced to resign over allegations that she misused a state credit card to buy nappies and chocolate for her children, there was a flood of letters supporting her.

"Hey Mona, don't give up fight on," wrote one correspondent.

Others complained about the fact that Persson receives an allowance to commute to the Swedish capital from his home town of Malmo, 620 km (390 miles) from Stockholm on Sweden's south coast.

"No ordinary worker is paid for their trips to and from work," wrote Armi Andersson from Grangeberg, about 80 km (50 miles) northwest of Stockholm.

One woman, Kerstin Harling-Nuss, wrote to the prime minister to tell him Swedish taxes were too high.

So did a child, who wrote: "My mother and father think taxes are too high in Sweden, so they can't afford to buy a lot of presents for me."

Stafan Backman penned his letter on the back of a soup can label asking why no grades were given in late primary school.

"I will be surprised if you answer this letter," he said.

Mixed in with these letters was a letter of congratulations from Persson to athlete Ludmila Engquist, who won a gold medal for Sweden in the women's 100 meters hurdles in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

There was also a letter from Icelandic Prime Minister David Oddsson about changing the dates of an official state visit.

"Many citizens think they not only have the right to write to the prime minister and to get an answer, but that it is a completely natural thing to do," Andersson said.

(Reuter)

Singapore Computer Pirates Apologize to Microsoft

SINGAPORE — Ten Singapore computer dealers who illegally sold Microsoft Corp. products apologized in a full-page newspaper advertisement here Wednesday under a novel settlement to be implemented throughout Southeast Asia.

"We unreservedly apologize to Microsoft and the Singapore general public for preloading unauthorized copies of Microsoft programs onto the hard disks of computers we sold ..." the ad in the mass-circulation *Straits Times* said.

"Our actions infringed upon the copyrights and trademarks of Microsoft Corp. and were in breach of Singapore's Copyright and Trademarks Act," added the statement, signed by 10 companies with addresses in Singapore's two leading computer shopping malls.

Underneath the companies' names were the words: "We accept - - Microsoft."

As part of the out-of-court settlement, the dealers will together shell out about 225,000 Singapore dollars (U.S.$160,714) in cash as damages to Microsoft and donate to charity 10 confiscated personal computer (PCs) found to have been illegally loaded with Microsoft products.

Under the practice of "hard disk loading," believed to be widespread in Asia, dealers bundle unauthorized software along with legitimate programs as a bonus for PC customers, saving them hundreds of dollars and costing software makers huge amounts in unrealized income.

Owners of the errant companies could have faced jail terms if Microsoft went ahead with court cases. The company and Singapore police cooperated in raids on the dealers' premises and discovered illegal loading in PCs they were selling.

Officials of the U.S.-based global computer software giant, however, said they would rather teach the software pirates a lesson and "convert" them into legitimate dealers of Microsoft products.

In the ad, Microsoft warned that it "will not hesitate to bring legal proceedings against anyone found violating its intellectual property rights."

Microsoft contributed to the cost of the advertisements as a gesture of its commitment to stamping out piracy, a company statement Tuesday said.

A spokesman told AFP that the company was looking for children's charities such as orphanages to which the confiscated PCs could be donated, with educational multimedia software for children thrown in by Microsoft.

Christopher Austin, corporate attorney for Microsoft in Singapore, said in a statement Tuesday that the action against the dealers was "part of Microsoft's ongoing commitment to wipe out all forms of piracy in Singapore."

"This campaign will be implemented throughout the South-east Asia region."

Microsoft is the world leader in software for PCs, topped by the Windows 95 operating system, and also produces PC accessories such as mouses, keyboards and joysticks.

Last month, it sued five PC component traders suspected of distributing fake Microsoft computer mouses in Singapore, the first time such action has been taken in Southeast Asia.

(AFP)

Pentagon Studies Threat of Asteroid Collisions

WASHINGTON — The United States is taking seriously the threat of asteroids colliding with Earth and learning to track them when they are still far out in space, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday.

Through its Near Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) program, the Pentagon is developing the ability to spot distant asteroids and track them as their orbits change years before they might reach earth, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said.

"As we develop such a capability, the question arises, should we prepare ourselves or develop systems that might be able to respond to an asteroid disaster?" Bacon said.

Undersecretary of Defense Paul Kaminski has set up a working group to study the issue, Bacon said.

(AFP)

Meteorologists Fly Into the Eye of the Storm

LONDON — A team of meteorologists regularly takes off from Ireland's west coast to fly small spotter planes into the eye of Atlantic storms as they roll in towards Europe.

Their mission is to gather data from the turbulent heart of approaching weatherfronts find out why some turn into raging tempests as they hit the British isles and Europe, while others, apparently no different, fizzle out in mid-ocean.

"The smaller planes from Shannon (airport in Ireland) go right into the heart of the storms and they do get knocked about a bit," Frank Clough, of Reading University, told AFP.

Clough is one of some 100 meteorologists taking part in the Fronts and Atlantic Storm Tracking Experiment (FASTEX), a collaborative venture between 10 countries including France, Britain, Ireland and the United States.

"You'd need hundreds of ships to cover the Atlantic, but we think there are some areas that hold the key to the entire region. It's an idea from chaos theory."

His colleague, Professor Alan Thorpe, explained that the problem with predicting storms is that they usually happen when "wrinkles" form along the leading edges of Atlantic weather fronts as they approach Europe.

"They develop very quickly from features that are hard to detect," he said.

Information on Atlantic fronts is currently garnered from ships and satellites, but it is insufficient.

"You'd need hundreds of ships to cover the Atlantic, but we think there are some areas that hold the key to the entire region. It's an idea from chaos theory," said Thorpe.

Clough and his colleagues hope the new information will allow them to prevent a repeat of, for example, the infamous failure by British meteorologists to predict the arrival of Britain's worst storm in two centuries.

"So we're flying out to see if we are right. We've done seven flights so far and have about three more to go," he added.

The search for approaching storms begins on the other side of the Atlantic where U.S. research planes observe the early phases of weather systems, watching out for the instability that can cause havoc several days later in Europe.

Satellites then track any "wrinkles" spotted as they spread out eastwards across the ocean towards weather ships positioned at the midway point between the two continental land masses.

The ships are equipped with high-flying weather balloons which, when released, can then beam back data on the developing system to Shannon, Europe's most westerly major airport, and other national weather centers for evaluation.

If it looks as if the system will develop into a full-blown storm, one or more of three aircraft based in Shannon are dispatched westwards to intercept and take soundings when the storm is about one day from the Irish coast — about 300 miles (480 kilometers) out to sea.

A Royal Air Force (RAF) Hercules will also take off from a southern English base to fly over the storm releasing dropsondes — small weather stations tied to parachutes that can relay back details of temperature, humidity and wind speed.

Clough is one of the meteorologists who sits waiting for a telephone call telling him to report to the RAF base when an interesting-looking storm is brewing.

"We fly at 26,000 feet (8,000 meters), just below civil aviation level, so we're actually above the storm and there's only an occasional bit of turbulence," he said.

The data gathered by fastex will allow the scientists to draw up sophisticated maps of how storm systems evolve.

Clough and his colleagues hope the new information will allow them to prevent a repeat of, for example, the infamous failure by British meteorologists to predict the arrival of Britain's worst storm in two centuries.

The November 1987 tempest killed 19 people, uprooted 19 million trees, and caused £1.5 billion ($2.4 billion) worth of damage.

They believe it may also help meteorologists predict the behavior of similar storm fronts in the Pacific, and help unravel how cloud formation will be altered by global warming.

(AFP)

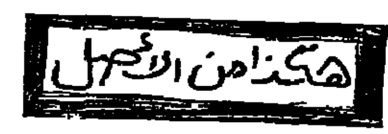
In Toboggan Racing, Weird Is Wonderful

CAMDEN, Maine — In the world of toboggan racing the art of winning may be knowing the right mix of wax and weirdness.

"This is like the only athletic event where eating and drinking a lot beforehand may help," said Susan Chace, an organizer of the National Toboggan Championship, held here earlier this month. The off-beat event features North America's only wood toboggan chute, a 400-foot (122 meter)- long snow-packed trough that looks like a low-tech bobsled track without the curves.

Toboggans are long, flat-bottomed sleds usually made of thin wooden boards, curved up at one end, whereas bobsleds are relatively hi-tech devices with fiberglass bodies that sit on runners. Tobbagan teams with names such as Kevorkian's Alternative — a reference to the well-known suicide doctor — crash test dummies and the tobogganers

(Contd on Pg. 14)



Somalian Refugees Begin Returning Home With UN Help



GENEVA — The voluntary repatriation of 290,000 Somalis from Ethiopia has begun with the return of several hundred refugees to the northwest of their native land, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said in Geneva.

Thirty-five families left Teferi Ber camp, outside the Ethiopian town of Jijiga, and rode six buses for 25 kilometers (15 miles) to the border, from where they proceeded to their home towns, it said.

Each of the returnees got nine months' worth of food and the equivalent of $30 in travel funds.

By the end of May, the UNHCR expects 10,000 refugees to have returned home. To help them readapt, the agency has set up small development projects inside Somalia.

Some one million Somalians fled their homeland when civil war broke out after the 1991 overthrow of the Siad Barre regime, amid poverty and prolonged drought.

Many have since returned, but 126,000 Somalians remain languishing in camps in Kenya, another 20,000 in Djibouti and 10,000 in Yemen. (AFP)

Congressional Delegation Discusses Reform With UN Aides

UNITED NATIONS — A congressional delegation held talks on UN reform here Tuesday with UN officials as the U.S. Congress prepares legislation setting conditions for the payment of U.S. arrears.

Marc Thiessen, spokesman for Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, told reporters afterwards that the legislation would be submitted "in the not-too-distant future." But he refused to define the "benchmarks" that Helms says must be implemented before the U.S. Congress begins paying the $1.5 billion in arrears owed to the United Nations.

Washington's failure to pay its dues has crippled the world body financially and hampered reform.

Thiessen and UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said that Tuesday's "exchange of views", involving senior aides to UN Chief Kofi Annan and the 11 congressional representatives from both houses, took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Annan agreed to the visit during a visit to Washington last month when he met with Helms and other congressional leaders, as well as U.S. President Bill Clinton whose administration is pressing for the arrears payment.

The congressional panel, mainly consisting of Senate Foreign Relations Committee experts, also held talks with UN General Assembly president Razali Ismail of Malaysia.

Thiessen said that Razali may meet with committee experts when he travels to Washington later this month to address the Council for Foreign Relations.

Razali is a key figure in UN reform as major issues such as the amount of UN contributions by individual countries, and Security Council enlargement, can only be resolved through agreement involving the 185 UN member states.

The United States, which contributes a quarter of the UN budget, wants to see its share reduced. But member states say that they will only agree to a lower percentage if Washington provides guarantees that the money will be released.

Eckhard said that the congressional delegation was warned on Tuesday that there could be problems with other governments on this issue.

Annan, who has pledged his commitment to continuing UN reform, has instructed his reform coordinator Maurice Strong to produce a reform package by late July which could be approved by the General Assembly in the fall.

Thiessen said that the pressure from Congress was helping Annan's reform efforts. But Eckhard said that UN officials told the delegation that "the secretary-general would be pursuing reform even without pressure." (AFP)

Rehn Proposes Military Observers in Eastern Slavonia After UN

ZAGREB — A UN envoy said that a large international presence, including military observers, would be needed in eastern Slavonia, the last Serb-held part of Croatia, when the current UN mission leaves.

The Croatian news agency Hina said UN Special Human Rights Rapporter Elisabeth Rehn was speaking in Vukovar, the main town of the region.

Eastern Slavonia, which is due to return to Croatian control by January 1998 at the latest, is currently under the administration of a 5,000-strong UN mission (UNTAES).

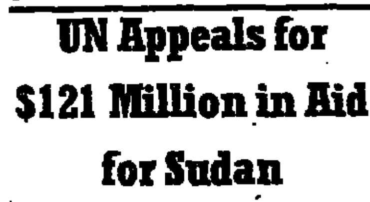
The mandate for this mission expires in mid-1997, but the UN Security Council has said that there will be a further UN presence, as yet undefined, for the following six months.

Rehn said that this international presence must include representatives from the European Union, a European observer mission and members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

She said there should also be a large mission of UN military observers after the UN soldiers leave, if the Serb population was to be reassured about their future.

Rehn said that recent cases of Serbs leaving the area were linked to their uncertainty about what would happen after the United Nations left.

The rights envoy arrived in eastern Slavonia as part of a mission to the former Yugoslavia in which she will visit Bosnia and Croatia. (AFP)



Yemen Faces Bleak Future Over Water

SANAA — Yemen's capital Sanaa, home to a million people, could run dry in a decade as water levels fall and demand soars.

Wells that for decades sustained the arid, impoverished country at the tip of the Arabian peninsula are drying up. Sanaa could run out of water by 2008, a World Bank study said.

Each year, Yemen's 16 million people consume about 2.8 billion cubic meters (3.6 billion cubic yards) of water but nature and other resources provide only three-quarters of that.

The gap is filled by taking water from the ground, including fossil water thousands of years old. Pollution and overpumping have already destroyed many non-renewable aquifers.

Yemen is facing a water crisis, the World Bank said in a 1995 report. There is no country in the world where deep aquifers are depleting at such a speed as in Yemen while all surface water is being exploited.

Yemenis Consume Little Water

In a region where everyone faces blistering temperatures and little rainfall, yemenis suffer the most. They have no rivers and lack the cash of wealthy neighbor Saudi Arabia to pay for desalination.

Yemenis already consume little water compared to many other Arabs.

Each Yemeni uses a mere 150 cubic meters (196 cubic yards) of water a year in his home, compared to an average 1,250 cubic meters (1,636 cubic yards) per person in the Middle East and North Africa and an international average of 7,500 cubic meters (9,800 cubic yards), Mohammed Saleh Jaradi, head of the national water resources authority in Sanaa, told Reuters.

Sanaa, for example, produces 53,700 cubic meters (70,200 cubic yards) of water a day for 61,000 consumers whose actual needs reach 87,000 cubic meters (113,800 cubic yards), he said.

There are 600 private wells that meet the needs of the rest of the capital's residents at special rates higher than those charged by the state, said Jaradi as he spread out charts in his office.

Many frustrated citizens pay up to four times the state price to buy water from tankers.

Despite worsening shortages for agriculture, drinking, sanitation and industry, there is little sign the country, burdened with a population growth of about 3.8 percent per year, is acting to head off a crisis.

The government has been unable to take control of 45,000 private wells or to ban operators of 200 water-drilling machines in a huge country dominated by tribes.

People Killed in Water Feud

Access to wells has been a source of trouble for years. Last month eight people were killed and 15 injured in a feud over a well in the southern town of Taiz, scene of a severe water crisis last year.

With 350 billion cubic meters (460 billion cubic yards) in untapped water reserves, the eastern Province of Hadramout, famed for its lush wadis and farm lands, appears to be the only corner in Yemen with a brighter water future, officials and water experts say.

For the rest of the country many officials and water experts believe radical solutions are needed. Scores of seminars across the country have called for raising the prices of water to encourage wise consumption, banning imports of drilling equipment, adopting modern irrigation methods and building more dams.

It has raised prices of water under reforms agreed by the International Monetary Fund in 1996 but the government's ability to cope is limited.

Big Investments Needed to Overcome Water Shortage

Yemen's options to handle the escalating water crisis remain limited because of weak (government) institutions said Sanaa university Professor Mohammed Mosleh al-Sanbani in a study presented at a recent seminar.

In addition, massive funds are needed which Yemen cannot make available easily under limited economic growth.

Several foreign aid projects are trying to upgrade Yemen's domestic water supplies and sewerage systems to improve sanitation and reduce such diseases as diarrhoea.

While the affluent buy bottled water, most Yemenis boil tap water for drinking or install filters. Outside major cities, each child suffers from diarrhoea at least seven times a year, doctors say.

Water experts see that as a factor in the high level of child mortality in Yemen. Sanaa is trying to cut the death rate among children under five to 60 in every 1,000 births from more than 100 now. (Reuter)

China Attacks U.S. Human Rights

BEIJING — China attacked the United States for its criticism of human rights abuses abroad and in turn highlighted high U.S. rates of child murder and child suicide.

Citing a recent study, a signed commentary in the official *China Daily* said five times more children under the age of 15 are likely to be killed in the U.S. than in 25 other developed countries.

It also quoted a study by the U.S. government-sponsored Center for Disease Control as saying that between 1950 and 1990, the child murder rate tripled and the child suicide rate quadrupled in the U.S.

"Had the U.S. government focused all its attention on the children's situation at home. In the past years, the rates of child murder and suicide would not have been so shocking," the commentary said.

"The fact is that year after year, the U.S. government has persisted in other countries' human rights situation and turned a blind eye to problems in its own backyard."

It denounced the U.S. State Department's series of annual human rights reports as hypocritical, saying they "wantonly" attack other countries' problems without mentioning domestic shortcomings.

The most recent report, released on January 30, said that Chinese repression had left no dissidents active by the end of 1996.

China continued to commit widespread abuses stemming from the authorities' intolerance of dissent and fear of unrest, it said.

But the commentary said: "The release of the human rights report will only make the U.S. a standing joke in the world and poison the international cooperative atmosphere in the field of human rights."

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is due to arrive in China on Monday for a two-day official visit. (AFP)

UN Appeals for $121 Million in Aid for Sudan

NAIROBI — The United Nations appealed for $120.8 million in emergency aid for Sudan to help an estimated 4.2 million people facing starvation and disease because of war and natural disasters.

The money will be used to finance 33 humanitarian projects in Sudan this year, a UN statement issued here said.

Most of affected people have been struggling to cope with chronic malnutrition and infectious diseases, which are spreading at an alarmingly rate, according to the statement. (AFP)





15th Festival's Candidates for Best Photo, Poster

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The jury for the publicity section of the 15th Fajr International Film Festival consisting of Dr. Halimi, Mohammad Ali Rajabi, Akbar Nabavi, Masoud Taraqqijah and Mahmoud Kalari announced the candidates for the best photographs, posters.

Best Photography Candidates

* From among photos from *"Sisters but Strangers"* (Ardashir Shalileh)
* From among photos from *"A Trip to Chazzabeh"* (Babak Borzooyeh)
* From among photos from *"Ghazal"* (Ahmad Aligholizadeh)
* From among photos from *"Gabbeh"* (Mohammad Ahmadi)
* From among photos from *"A Real Story"* (Jamshid Bairami)

Best Poster Candidates

* From among posters on *"The Zero Heights"* (Majid Akhavan)
* From among posters on *"Sisters but Strangers"* (Heidar Rezaie)

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Cinema Is Cinema; Experimental, Acceptable but Too Superficial



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — With this film, Seyed Zia'eddin Dorry is pointing out one of the drawbacks of the society; taking role as an actress in the movies.

The subject matter of the movie is interesting as well as being consistent with the experimental atmosphere.

The good points of the film are the actors and actresses play naturally and expressively as well.

The only defect of the movie is the more the director tries to probe the roots of the drawback the more it remains superficial.

Also too much emphasis on some of the characters as the Turkish man doubled the superficiality.

It seemed that this very character was abundant (or maybe the director wanted to season his film with misusing and devaluing nationalities).

Turning to social psychology, especially in a religious nation like Iran, requires a lot of research and analysis, even more important it demands courage that the very element is missing in *Cinema Is Cinema*.

However, as the first experience of the director the film passes muster.

Finally the father gives consent and the corrupt-to-the-core cinema (as the father dubbed) swallows another victim, in spite of the fact that father knows that his girl is going astray.

Sultan, Attractive and Successful, Gives Pride to the 15th Festival

Tehran Times Service

Director: Masoud Kimiaie
Cast: Fariborz Arabnia, Hadyeh Tehrani, Zhaleh Olow, Hassan Joharchi



Synopsis

Sultan, Reza as his birth certificate says, has lost his pregnant wife in a bomb explosion at the beginning of the revolution. He lives in a small apartment at a derelict area, once a fruit and vegetables market. Aadel, a young adult who's lost his parents also at the beginning of revolution, and Hossein Bolbol, a young man, a professional copycat, live with him. They snatch a bag with a lot of real estate documents in it which belong to an old servant and his girl.

On returning the documents, and during the meetings, Sultan and the servant's girl fell in love. But Sultan, who has reached absurdism in his life, realizes that they are not of the same social class. In a struggle with the tower-makers who want to make trouble for the girl, Sultan kills the man who has betrayed his friend, Adel's father, with a grenade, he himself burning in flames.

Critique

Masoud Kimiaie, the prominent Iranian film director and the father of a new wave in the Iranian cinema, once again gives pride the cinematic society of Iran, something he did years ago by his famous film *Qeisar*.

Sultan is the story of loneliness and the unfulfilled expectations. The rich filmscript pictures fundamental changes in the Iranian society during the year 1979: the picture of true personalities as Sultan, Adel, Hossein Bolbol who are going to lose their houses and property and some capitalist tower-makers who are determined to change the spirit of the city. They are determined to change the old houses into towers, wipe out spirituality, and install beautiful but dead civilization.

With his nostalgic look, Kimiaie makes the moviegoers, shed tears for whatever they have lost.

Arabnia's (Sultan) powerful and apt role playing still highlights the positive points of *Sultan*.

Applying wind musical instruments, specially trumpet and jazz, helps the moviegoers to make a direct relation with the film.

Rafie Jam's camera along with meaningful lighting, specially in the active scenes will be among the eternal pictures in the Iranian cinema.

Generally speaking, *Sultan*, with his deep look at the social class gaps, and paying attention to the underprivileged strata of the society is very successful.

It should be noted that, at a time when most (at least not all) of the films enjoy happy ending, the tragedy of *Sultan*, has a sad ending. The hero voluntarily goes to face death because of the absurdity of life.

Cinema 76 CD to Challenge American Cinemania

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — During the 15th Fajr International Film Festival the computer software of Cinema 76 was introduced to the interested and those engaged in cinema work. The newly made CD is rich enough to challenge the rival American, Cinemania, which is something like a cinema encyclopedia. The software which is available on CD-ROM contains information about the Iranian post-revolution cinema including 1046 film titles, information about cinematic personalities, say directors, actors and actresses etc., and some information about the past fourteen film festivals.

Ahmad Kiarostami, the son of the Iranian prominent film director, Abbas Kiarostami, and the manager of the project took part in an interview with the *Tehran Times* to elaborate more on the project: The software is capable of showing nine scene and behind the scene pictures, some minutes of the best sequence of the film, and broadcasting the music of the film as well as some parts of the dialogs. He added the poster, with the pictures of some of the films, has also been prepared for the interested. In the biography section of the CD some information about the directors, actors and actresses and make-up artists with a portrait of them is presented as well as their artistic background.

Pointing out some of cinematic terms, Kiarostami emphasized the possibility of getting and using the critique of some of the films. "An English version of the schedule will be available in the near future," he added finally, while appreciating all those people who helped him in preparing the remarkable software.

The whole project took six months with the close collaboration of six computer engineers, and with an investment of almost 10 million rials.

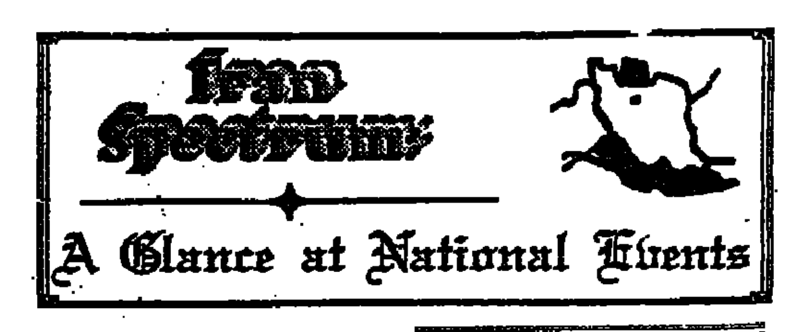
It's noteworthy the CD was made with the investment of Afrazeh Company and costs the interested 99,000 rials.





International Spectrum
A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES
Tehran Times Weekend Issue
THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 1997; ESFAND 2, 1375; SHAVAL 12, 1417

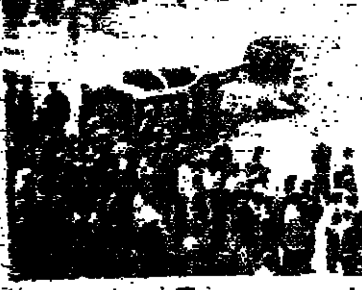


A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, February 11



Albanian Government Seeks State of Emergency Ruling

The Albanian government asked parliament to impose a state of emergency in the southern Albanian town of Vlore where anti-government protesters have gone on a rampage burning and attacking.

Israeli Warplanes Attack South Lebanon

Israeli warplanes staged raid on a radio station in South Lebanon. Lebanese police said Israeli jets fired two missiles at the antenna of the Sawt al-Mostazafin radio station.

80 Die in Unrest in Northwestern China

Eighty people were killed in clashes between Muslim Uighurs and ethnic Chinese in northwestern China.

South Korean MPs Arrested for Loan Scandal

Prosecutors arrested two ruling party MPs on charges of taking bribes for loans to the failed Hanbo Group. MPs Chung Jae-Chull and Hong In-Kil of the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) were sent to prison on charges of pressuring banks to extend preferential loans to the debt-stricken conglomerate in return for kickbacks.

Ruling Party MP Assassinated

A night curfew was clamped at a Sri Lankan town after suspected opposition gunmen shot dead a ruling party legislator and a bodyguard ahead of key local government polls.

Wednesday, February 12

Maskhadov Inaugurated as Chechen President



Separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov was inaugurated as Chechnya's president in Grozny, swearing to continue the tiny Muslim republic's drive for independence from Russia.



Ecuadoran President Alarcon Sworn In

Congress leader Fabian Alarcon was sworn in as Ecuador's interim president after lawmakers elected him to the post, ending six days of political chaos that began when Abdala Bucaram was ousted for mental incompetency.

Senior North Korean Official Defects

A senior North Korean official asked for asylum in the South Korean Embassy in Beijing.

S.Korean PM Hints at Cabinet Resignation

South Korea's Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung hinted that the whole cabinet could resign as Home Minister Kim Woo-Suk stepped down after being summoned as a suspect in the widening Hanbo scandal. The home minister and South Korea's former ambassador to Beijing, MP Hwaqng Byung-Tae of the ruling New Korea Party (NKP), were grilled "as suspects" in the scandal which has engulfed officials close to President Kim Young-Sam.

Peru Rebels and Government Agree on Further Talks

The Peruvian government and Marxist rebels holding 72 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's home in Lima agreed at talks to hold further negotiations to end the crisis.

Thursday, February 13

Ecuador's New President Fires 6,000 Civil Servants

In his first act as Ecuador's new president, Fabian Alarcon fired thousands of civil servants recruited under his predecessor Abdal Bucaram, who in turn blasted bankers and businessmen for orchestrating his ouster.

Friday, February 14

Okinawa Residents Protest U.S. for Use of Radioactive

Angry legislators in Japan's Okinawa Island described a delay in reporting the firing of radioactive bullets by U.S. fighters as "inexcusable".

10,000 Muslims Demonstrate Outside Brcko

Some 10,000 Muslim refugees from the disputed Bosnian town of Brcko demonstrated near their hometown hours ahead of a decision on future of the town.

Indian PM Offers Hand of Friendship to Pakistan

Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda offered the hand of friendship to Pakistan. But Pakistan responded that she won't consider resuming talks with India unless there are "meaningful negotiations" on the thorny Kashmir issue.

Saturday, February 15

Clinton Issues Emergency Order to Block Pilots' Strike

U.S. President Bill Clinton blocked an American Airline pilots strike, invoking emergency powers just minutes after union leaders ordered a walkout.

Russian Parliament to Block START II If NATO Expands

The leftist parties dominating the Russian Parliament said they will block ratification of the START II Nuclear Arms Reduction Treaty if NATO goes ahead with expansion plans.

Yugoslav Prime Minister to Form New Government

Outgoing Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoji Kontic was given the task of forming a new government in the near future.

Defector Shot in His Home

A North Korean defector was shot and ciritically wounded. Lee Han-Young, 36, was shot outside a friend's apartment in Bundang, a residential town south of Seoul.

Curfew in Sri Lanka Town as Violence Mars Funeral

Police introduced a night curfew on a Sri Lankan town as hundreds of angry mourners stoned police following the funeral of a ruling party legislator killed by opposition gunmen.

Sunday, February 16

Tajik Rebels Free Five Captives

Tajik rebels freed five of their 11 hostages, which include eight UN staff. The five were held captive for close to two weeks.

Khartoum Charges U.S., Israel Behind Fighting in Sudan

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir accused the United States and Israel of carrying out a proxy war against his country by arming three of Sudan's neighbors. Sudan has accused Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda of involvement in the joint offensive launched January 12 by the northern opposition and southern guerrillas against government troops in southern and eastern Sudan.

22 Massacred in Eastern India

The eastern Indian state of Tripura ordered police to shoot tribal guerrillas n sight and deployed the army after massacre of 22 people.

Monday, February 17

Sharif Takes Over as Pakistan's New PM



Nawaz Sharif was formally sworn in as the 13th elected Pakistan's prime minister by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

Last UN Hostages Freed in Tajikistan

Armed Tajiks freed their last hostages, five UN workers, ending a crisis which gripped this Central Asian Republic. The release came after several hours of direct talks between the activists and Tajik President Rakhmonov. The hostage crisis, in a mountainous area of central Tajikistan, began Feb.4.

North Korea Indicates It Can Accept Hwang's Defection

North Korea indicated that it can accept the defection of Hwang Jang Yop, the highest-ranking official to flee the communist state.

U.S. Expels Indian Diplomats

India denied two of its diplomats expelled by the United States were spies. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the move was in response to the Indian government's expulsion of an American official who had unauthorized contacts with India's counter-intelligence chief.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday 6, February 11

7th Annual Meeting of Experts Assembly Opens



The seventh annual meeting of the Experts of Assembly convened in Qom presided over by Ayatollah Ali Meshkini.

Wednesday, February 12

President Elaborates on Foreign, Domestic Issues



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani attending a press conference answered to the questions of representatives of 70 domestic and foreign news agencies and newspapers.

Nakhichevan's Parliament Speaker Calls On Nateq Nouri

The Parliament Speaker of Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, Wassef Talebov,



held talks with Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri.

Thursday, February 13

Enmity Towards Islam, Cause of Arrogant Powers Hostility to Iran

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said the hostility of the global arrogance led by the U.S. and Israel towards the Islamic Republic of Iran emanated from its innate enmity with Islam.

Friday, February 14

Kashani Calls For Vigilance Against Cultural of Frustrated Enemies

Ayatollah Emami Kashani dwelt on the enemy's surreptitious plots in the cultural areas which aimed at diverting the youth, and underlined the need for serious confrontation against cultural encroachment.

Saturday, February 15

President: Optimized Use of Oil and Soil Resources Is Vital

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, inaugurating the Second National Congress on Water and Soil, said shortage of water will be an important concern of the world in the future.



Talebov Confers With Chief of Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Commission

Visiting Nakhichevanian delegation conferred with the



Minister of Cooperatives and Iranian head of Joint Iran-Azerbaijan Economic Commission, Shafei.

Sunday, February 16

Role of Human Resources in Industrial Development, Pivotal

Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri emphasized the important role of man power in industrial development and said that today in industrialized countries the industrial development has overshadowed the real identity of human beings.

Iran, Nakhichevan Sign MOU

Islamic Republic of Iran and the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan inked a memorandum of understanding according to which the entrance visa for travelling to both countries was removed.

Monday, February 17

Special Attention Should Be Given to Martyrs' Children

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei called for special attention to be given to the martyrs' children.

How Does Your Marriage Rate?

Try this quiz and see if you and your mate are living in bliss—or need to start talking

Do you get furious when he leaves his socks on the floor, or the top off the toothpaste? Does he grit his teeth when you start the vacum cleaner, just as a football match is beginning on television? Do you have a squabble nearly every day, and then wonder whether marriage is like this for everybody else? You can find out by taking this quiz—known as the Locke Marital Adjustment Questionnaire—scoring yourself, and then comparing your score with the average.

Of course, a quiz like this won't give you any ultimate answers about your marriage. Says David Jackson, a Toronto pscychologist" "Most people associate any kind of test with exams at school in which you either pass or fail. You don't pass or fail a test like this; you simply use it as a jumping-off place, a stimulus for personal discussion with your spouse."

Most husbands and wives, no matter how close they think they are, have a reservoir of feelings that are never disclosed, perhaps not even to themselves. This quiz could help to open such reservoirs by probing into your secret fantasies (do you often wish you had never married?) and your daily patterns.

Encourage your mate to fill out a separate answer sheet. Then total your scores and compare notes. Maybe you'll find that both you and your husband have rated your marriage as happier than average. Count your blessings! Or maybe he rates your marriage as average-happy, and you rate it very low. Start talking!

Reply to each question by placing a tick next to the appropriate answer. If you cannot give an exact answer to a question, answer the best you can.

1. Have you ever wished you had not married?
   - a. Frequently.....
   - b. Occasionally .....
   - c. Rarely .....

2. If you had your life to live over again, would you:
   - a. Marry the same person ...
   - b. Marry a different person ....
   - c. Not marry at all......

3. How many outside activities do you engage in together?
   - a. All of them ....
   - b. Some of them ...
   - c. Few of them ....
   - d. None of them ....

4. In leisure time, which situation do you prefer?
   - a. Both husband and wife to stay at home ....
   - b. Both to be on the go .....
   - c. One to be on the go and other to stay at home ...

5. Do you talk things over together?
   - a. Never ...
   - b. Now and then ....
   - c. Almost never ...

6. How often do you express your love to your mate?
   - a. Every day ...
   - b. Now and then ...
   - c. Almost never ...

7. Tick any of the following items which you think have caused serious difficulties in your marriage.

Mate's attempt to control my spending money ...
Other difficulties over money...
Religious differences...
Different amusement interests...
Lack of mutual friends ...
Constant bickering ...
Interference of in-laws ...
Lack of mutual affection ...
Unsatisfying marital relations...
Selfishness and lack of cooperation ...
Desire to have children ....
Desertion ....
Nonsupport ...
Ill health ...
Mates sent to jail ...
Other reasons ...

8. How many things truly satisfy you about your marriage?
   - a. Nothing
   - b. One thing...
   - c. Two things ...
   - d. Three or more ...

9. When disagreements arise, they generally result in:
   - a. Husband giving in ...
   - b. Wife giving in ...
   - c. Neither giving in ...
   - d. Agreement by mutual give and take...

10. What is the total number of times your left mate or mate left you because of conflict?
    - a. Never ...
    - b. One or more times ...

11. How frequently do you and your mate get on each other's nerves around the house?
    - a. Never ...
    - b. Occasionally ...
    - c. Almost always ..
    - e. Always ...

12. What are your feelings on marital relations between your and you mate?
    - a. Very enjoyable ...
    - b. Enjoyable ...
    - c. Disgusting ...
    - e. Very disgusting ...

13. What are your mate's feelings on marital relations with you?
    - a. Very enjoyable ..
    - b. Enjoyable ...
    - c. Tolerable ...
    - d. Disgusting ...
    - e. Very disgusting ...

Indicate approximate extent of agreement between husband and wife.

Tick one column for each item below	Always agree	Almost always agree	Occasionally disagree	Frequently disagree	Almost always disagree	Always disagree
14. Handling family finances						
15. Matters of recreation						
16. Demonstration of affection						
17. Friends (Examble: dislike of mate's friends)						
18. Intimate relations						
19. Ways of dealing with in-laws						
20. Amount of time that should be spent together						
21. Conventionality (Example: right, good, or proper conduct)						
22. Aims, goals and things believed to be important						

23. *Circle the dot which you feel best represents the degree of happiness in your marriage.*

Very Unhappy — Happy — Very Happy

SCORING: On the chart below, circle the appropriate point value. Your score is simply the total of points earned for each answer given. Note that for some answers *men's* are given in parentheses; where there are no parentheses, men's and women's scores are the same.

QUESTION	A	B	C	D	E
1.	2	2	6		
2.	7	1	1		
3.	5	4	2	2	
4.	6	4(3)	2		
5.	2	2	4	5	
6.	5	3	3		
7.	0 items checked=6 1item=6 2items=5(4) 3items=4 4items=3(2) 5items=3(2) 6 items more=2				
8.	3	3	4	5	
9.	3(2)	2(3)	2	6	
10.	7	1			
11.	5	4(5)	3	3	3
12.	5	5(4)	2	2	2
13.	5	3(4)	3	3	3

	Always agree	Almost always agree	Occasionally disagree	Frequently disagree	Almost always disagree	Always disagree
14. Handling family finances	5	5	2	2	2	2
15. Matters of recreation	4(5)	4	3(4)	3	3	3
16. Demonstration of affection	5	4	3	3	3	3
17. Friends	5	5	2(3)	2	2	2
18. Intimate relations	5	4(5)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)
19. Ways of dealing with in-laws	5	5	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)
20. Amount of time that should be spent together	6(5)	4	3(2)	2	2	2
21. Conventionality	5	4(5)	2	2	2	2
22. Aims, goals and things believed to be important	6	4	2	2	2	2

0 — 1 — 3 — 7 — 10 — 13 — 18

Very Unhappy — Happy — Very Happy

How does *your* marriage rate? For men, the average score on this quiz is approximately 110. For women: 108. Where does your total place you on the scale? Above 120 ... Very Happy; 100 to 120 ... Happy; 90 to 100 ... Unhappy; Below 90 ... Start Talking!

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Entertaining in Style

Savory Tartlets

You will need ...	**2 hard-boiled eggs**
	6 oz. short crust pastry
	1 oz. butter
Preparation time	**1 oz. flour**
20 minutes	**1 $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz. can evaporated milk**
	4 oz. fresh or frozen prawns, peeled
Cooking time	**2 oz. peas, cooked**
20 minutes	**salt and pepper to taste**
	1 dessertspoon lemon juice
Oven setting	
350°F; gas mark 4	

Sehll and chop hard-boiled eggs roughly. Roll out pastry thinly. Cut out 12 tartlet cases with a 3-inch fluted cutter (see *Quick Tip below*). Use to line patty tins. Bake 'blind' in a moderately hot oven for 20 minutes.

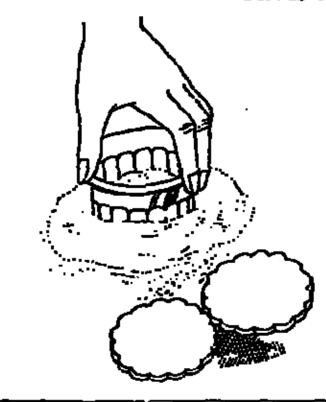
Meanwhile melt the butter, stir in the flour and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat, add evaporated milk made up to $\frac{1}{2}$ pint with water. Return to heat and cook for a further few minutes, stirring. Add chopped hard-boiled egg, half the prawns and the cooked peas. Stir in seasoning to taste and lemon juice. (Use more lemon juice if liked).

Pour filling into empty tartlet cases. To decorate, top the tartlets with reserved prawns.

Note: Filling can be varied. Chopped ham can be substituted for prawns, or cooked mushrooms for the egg, for instance.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP



To cut out clean shapes; dip fluted cutter into flour each time before using. If a plain cutter is used, give a slight twist when cutting.

COMING UP THE RIVER




Follow the CHANNEL to the DRY DOCK, and you can TIE UP your craft and go through CUSTOMS. Make sure that the ROPES are secure before you leave the QUAY. Find all thirty-six hidden answers.

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D S T R C P P C F D D T S P R O H R R S
L S P O Y O U P H H O T W Y E A R O I S
G L S L L A R E H A H C E Z W T P G T D
H N A R P I W K I S N B K S M E N O E N
E C I W E A P G I T M N E E S A P Y S O
D K N W A V S L N O R R E P L E O C U B
E D S U O E E S D A S U A L N X H Z O L
Z I U K A T S R P Z G S O G W D B S H P
B H Y A G L I B S O S C I B O R T N T S
B S S T Y N O P J E R N D T R O Y O H O
B U U H S A F Z N X E T E E K A B T G P
K S K V T E B G C S Y R K H S V N S I K
S C L H N R E G R H P R L N E D X U L J
H C O D E R Z S L I A S L R U F E C W U
I O E D S C O Z S J F I F J T T T R Q F
K R N C Y U R O H C N A N I L M I O D C
S E E P Z R B Y S J Z T D S S U P C Y A
T N O P O X D H E R X E S P I N S A N I
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(Solution Next Thursday)

هكذا من الأول

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Cyprus

Island of Contrasts

Time stands still along narrow Hermes Street, which slashes across the center of the Old City of Nicosia like a deep wound that has never healed.

For almost 30 years a UN force has been stationed on the island to quell intercommunal violence; for over 20 years it has guarded the buffer zone to keep the fragile peace between the Cypriots.

The split was created in 1974, when Turkey sent in troops to avert Cyprus' threatened union with Greece, sweeping past UN peacekeepers. Within a few months, more than a third of the total population was displaced in the fighting as some 180,000 Greek Cypriots fled south and 45,000 Turkish Cypriots moved north, all becoming refugees within their own country. Today 600,000 Greek Cypriots in the south and 170,000 Turkish Cypriots and immigrants from mainland Turkey in the north remain apart, almost never permitted to cross to the other side.

Cyprus is not only divided, it is also an island of contrasts. Politically it is part of Europe, but geographically it is in Asia, lying 40 miles off southern Turkey. Almost twice the size of Delaware, Cyprus has two mountain ranges that run east to west with a plain called the Mesaoria between them. The larger of the two, the Troodos, lies in the south, rising to 6,401 feet on Mount Olympus. Ancient monasteries and vineyards are scattered through the foothills, but the upper reaches are desolate. Snow covers the range in winter, and hardy visitors can ski in the morning and drive down to the coast at Paphos for an invigorating afternoon swim.

The smaller Kyrenia Range stretches nearly a hundred miles along the northern coast. Turkish Cypriot villages and medieval castles grace the hillsides, and dark green olive groves drop down to the aquamarine sea.

Because Cyprus is situated strategically in the northeast corner of the Mediterranean, the island was always considered a prize by more powerful lands. Ancestors of today's Greek Cypriots emigrated from mainland Greece about 3,000 years ago and developed a flourishing trading center. Since then Cyprus has been ruled by Phoenicia, Assyria, Egypt, Persia, and the Roman and Byzantine Empires. The Lusignans, a French noble family, governed during the Crusades, and the Venetian Empire held sway in the 15th century. The Ottoman Turks, forebears of the modern Turkish Cypriots, dominated the island for 300 years before they ceded control to the British in 1878.

Until the waning years of British rule, Cypriot Greeks and Turks coexisted somewhat peacefully, although the Greeks occasionally rioted in favor of enosis (union) with Greece, and the Turks agitated for partition.

In the 1950s Greek Cupriots fought a guerrilla war for enosis, and as a compromise Britain agreed to grant Cyprus independence. Nationalist leader Archbishop Makarios III was elected president in 1960, while the Turkish Cypriot minority was given the vice presidency and minority political representation.

But after barely three years the government disintegrated amid mutual charges of bad faith. Severe fighting between the two sides erupted in Nicosia and spread throughout Cyprus. UN peacekeeping troops arrived in 1964 and spent the following ten years mediating conflicts. In 1974 a Greek Cypriot faction, backed by the military regime then in power in Athens, initiated a coup against the Makarios government, which had turned away from the concept of enosis. Turkey, fearing that the island would become part of Greece, invaded. After Turkish troops gained control of 37 percent of the country, a ceasefire was declared. That ceasefire line is today's UN-patrolled buffer zone.

"It's really surreal," says a young University of Cyprus professor. "The tourists have the luxury of enjoying the beauty of our land, free to ignore our awful reality. But we Greeks and Turks are prisoners of our politics."

Despite the island's troubles, life goes on as it does anywhere else: Cypriots work hard, raise families, and partake of the daily joys of living.

Many Cypriots are farmers whose families have worked the same land for generations. And most Cypriots who work in the cities live in small villages. This abiding attachment to land and family explains why the Greek Cypriots who fled south in 1974 long to return to their native vllages.

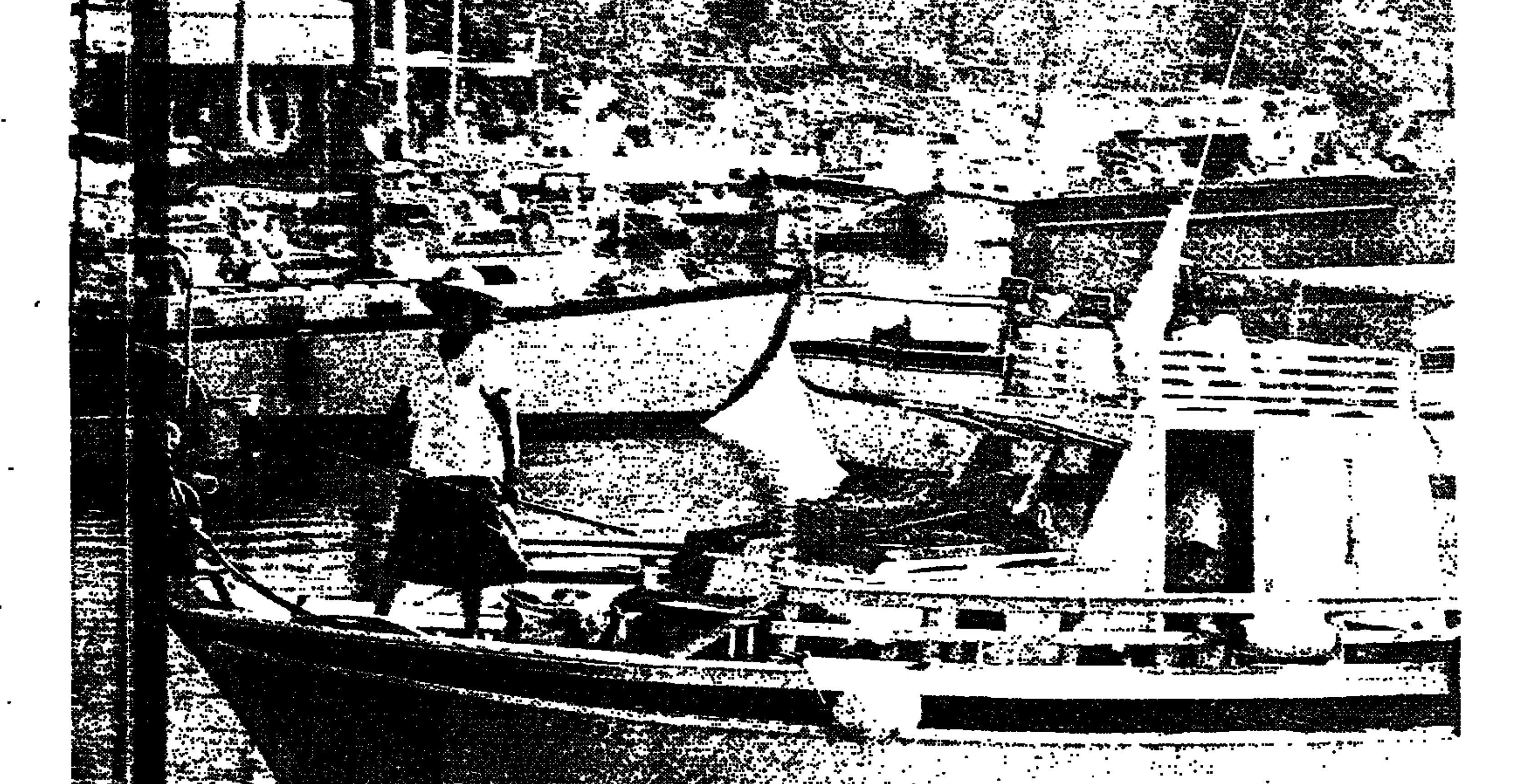
Stavros Pikis, a white-haird farmer who remained the headman of his Greek Cypriot community when they moved south, invites us to see his former home, the village of Acheritou. Resting just beyond the buffer zone amid citrus groves, it is now inhabited by Turkish settlers from the mainland. Stopping to gaze across his lemon grove near the zone, he says, "We still keep coming to this spot to look at our old homes, to remember, to pray, It is very heartbreaking, but we must do it. We must never forget."

With great pride, Pikis takes us into his orchard, where the air is sweet and the fruit hangs ripe and yellow. But the old man's pride leaves him as he talks about the painful loss of much of the grove. "When I come to work here, which is almost every day," he says, "I can see a Turkish family from the mainland working just a stone's throw away, across the barbed wire, on what used to be our field."

Tourism provides a third of the (Turkish) republic's foreign revenues and a quarter of its employment. Last year a record number of nearly two million tourists--three times the population--crowded the chain of hotels, restaurants, bars, gift shops, and fastfood stands that clog the southern coastline from Paphos to Ayia Napa. While tourism has helped the economy, rapid growth has threatened the island's wildlife and water resources.

George Vassiliou, then president of the Cyprus republic, sees the turmoil of the 1960s somewhat differently. "Independence came as a compromise, but unfortunately it was a compromise in which nobody believed," he says. "If the coup d'etat hadn't happened," he adds, "an agreement could have been signed between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek cypriots, and Cyprus would have been a very, very happy country today."

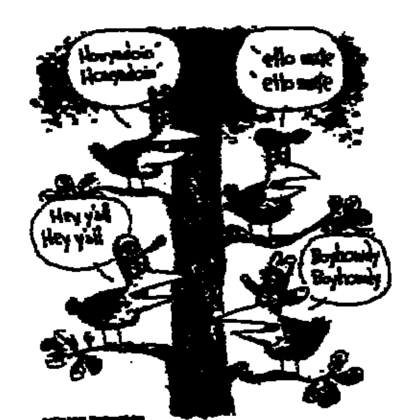
By any standard Cyprus should be a happy country, considering its natural beauty and its peoples' characteristic love of hard work and civilized living. For on this island, where wheat-and barley, olives and carobs grow in abundance, Cypriots once plowed the fields and celebrated life side by side. (Courtesy of National *Geographic*, July 1993.)



The bustling harbor of Paphos.

Fascinating Facts

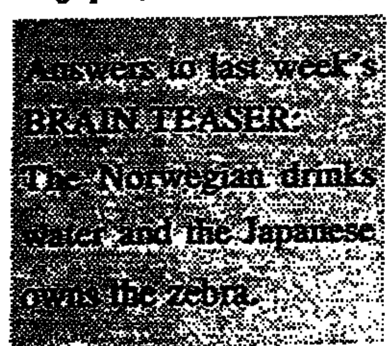
A Robin's Song Reveals Its Home Region



Southern swallows don't sing in a languid drawl, nor do Spanish sparrows roll their r's, but birds do develop regional accents. Lance Workman, a Welsh animal psychologist from the University of Glamorgan, has learned that robins in Wales and England sing different songs. In fact, a Sussex male was so vexed to hear a recording of a Welsh bird that he puffed up his feathers and attacked the tape player.

"In each phrase of its song a robin has several elements—a twitter, a cheep, whatever—and it will vary the order and pitch from area to area," sas Workman. He recorded songs of Welsh and Sussex robins, converted them to pictorial representations of phrase length and pitch, and found the songs could easily be identified by region.

Young robins learn their dialect by hearing the song of adult males. A song may define territory and encourage the mating of birds that are genetically better suited to a specific area. Regional variations have been found in finches and sparrows, but Workman is the first scientist to document them among robins. (Courtesy of *National Geographic*, November 1993.)



Answers to last week's BRAIN TEASER: The Norwegian drinks water and the Japanese owns the zebra.

Punch Line

Cyberspace Under Siege

How quickly the pendulum swings. After initial near-universal hosannas for the Internet, anti-cyberspace voices are being heard.

No sooner had those who had been expected to resist a radically new technology become denizens of the Internet, World Wide Web Pages and even more esoteric Multi User Domains, then the counter-swing began.

How significant are the concerns of the critics and the renunciations of the founders? Do they just represent a midterm correction or an oversold technology, or are they posting danger signs for deep ruts in the superhighway?

Disclaimers are quickly crowding the highway, not only on the Net itself but in a stream of new publications. Clifford Stoll, author of Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway begins his book: "I take a deep breath and pull the plug."

Clearly, this new technology elicits very powerful emotions. Stoll has impeccable computer credentials. He was one of the creators of Arpanet, the precursor of the Internet. It was an ingenious invention of the U.S. Department of Defense that initially linked its research laboratories to those in six other universities from which it has been spun off into commercial ventures. Academics have been its beneficiaries, or as Stoll now suggests, its victims.

Now Stoll insists that life online is sterile and, even worse, a crippling addiction. These severe criticisms from a person who has garnered fame and fortune from computers should not be dismissed.

However, it is tempting to ask if, as a pioneer in an underpopulated, unbounded new territory where he knew all his neighbors, Stoll has grown resentful of the more than 35 million recent arrivals who have invaded his territory and are using it for nasty purposes: trivia, hacking, pornography, and fraud.

Today, he complains about the junk that litters the highway along with the undesirables—he moans that morons and creeps are omnipresent, and rudeness as well as outright aggression are rampant.

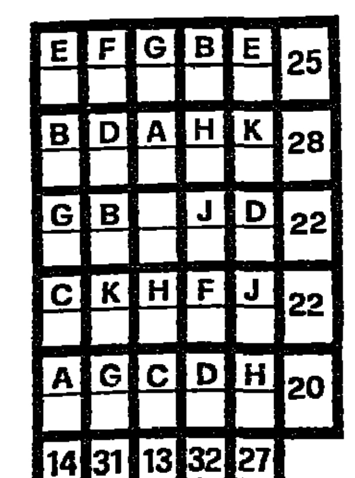
Unable to give vent to their rage elsewhere, he asserts, "flamers" pick fights and hurl insults, all the while hiding behind their anonymity. The allure of new "virtual communities," Stoll believes, reflects the sad fact of the disappearance of real communities. By the time he wrote Silicon Snake Oil, dinners with real friends had become more pleasurable to Stoll than hours spent roving in cyberspace attempting to make contact with other ephemeral, like-minded spirits.

But despite the gloomy predictions, the Internet is here to stay and Stoll, along with other justifiably anxious renunciants, should put their expertise to creating guidelines for policies that match the technologies they know so well. (Courtesy of *Emirates* inflight magazine, June 1996.)

Brain Teaser

NUMBERLET

Here's a puzzle that will really test your skill. Each of the numbers from 0 to 9 is represented by a letter of the alphabet. Given the individual values of "A" and "G," as shown in the table below, can you work out the other eight with the help of the sum totals shown in the diagram, and then work out which letter is missing from the center of the puzzle?



E	F	G	B	E	25
B	D	A	H	K	28
G	B		J	D	22
C	K	H	F	J	22
A	G	C	D	H	20
14	31	13	32	27	

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K
1						3			

(Answers will appear next week.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962 - John Glenn became the first U.S. astronaut in earth's orbit when the Mercury capsule friendship VII launched him into space.

1966 - Chester William Nimitz, U.S. admiral, died. During World War II he commanded the Pacific fleet.

1979 - 175 people were killed by an eruption of the Sinira volcano in Indonesia.

1984 - Harris Shoerats, the oldest man in Britain, died aged 111.

1990 - Soviet parliamentary leaders proposed a draft law which would allow the republics the right to break away from the Soviet Union. The law provided for any secession proposal to be decided by a referendum.

1994 - Yemen's rival leaders, Ali Abdullah Saleh and vice-President Ali Salem al Baidh, signed a pact designed to end more than six months of feuding.

1996 - Two senior Iraqi defectors and their families crossed into Iraq six months after fleeing the other way. They were pardoned by Saddam Hussein.

CANDID CAMERA

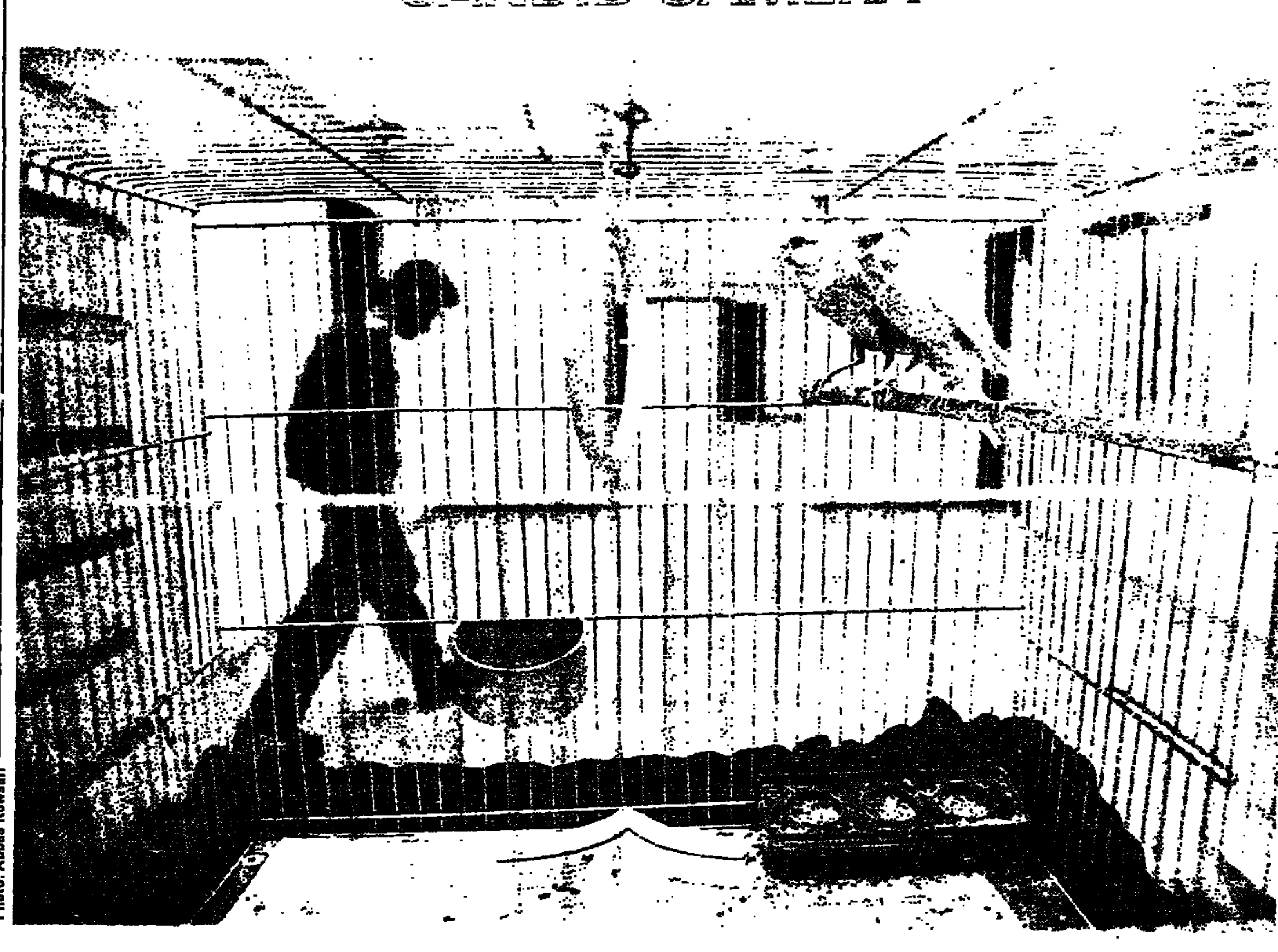


Photo: Abbas Kowsari

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1943 - Britain's King George VI awards Sword of Honor to Russians for defense of Stalingrad in World War II.

1963 - Soviet Union warns United States that an American attack on Cuba would mean world war.

1975 - 32-member UN Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland, accuses Israel of violating "basic norms of international law" in Arab territories it occupies.

1986 - South Africa government opens "Whites Only" downtown districts of Johannesburg and Durban to all races — first break with Apartheid policy of segregated business areas.

1990 - Cambodian Premier Hun Sen holds peace talks with Prince Sihanouk in Bangkok, Thailand.

1991 - Albania's president says he will form new government after police join huge demonstration against Communist rule.

1992 - China welcomes foreigners back to its Shanghai stock market.

1993 - A UN relief convoy, brings food and medicine to the eastern town of Zepa.

Short Story

A Sad Story

By George Sheffied

"You are the doctor, I suppose," said Augustus Pokewhistle, smiling from his bed at the immense man who had arrived secretly while he slept. "It is kind of you to come, but I fear you cannot help me. However, as you are here, I will tell you, very shortly, what is wrong with me. I am an artist. I paint pictures and I draw drawings..."

"But ..."

"You are going to tell me that you are not interested in the story of my life," Augustus laughed bitterly. "You are one of the soulless public, and it is of no importance to you if a clever young man should take to his bed in the height of his youth, never to rise again. But I suppose you have been sent here by some interfering so-called friend of mine to save me from the Silent Grave, and I must therefore explain my illness. And you cannot understand my illness unless I tell you the story of my life..."

"But ..."

"I was delicately brought up, and it soon became clear that I was not an ordinary boy. At the age of seven I won a prize for a drawing of an animal. We will forget the fact that I had intended my drawing to represent Sunset over London. After that my proud parents provided me with plenty of pencils and paper and gave me the opportunity of studying under Great Painters. At the age of twenty-one I started business as a painter of people, and painted eleven pictures of my own face. Nobody seemed to want them, and if you will go into my sitting-room, you will see them hanging sadly on the wall, looking down at the Empty Chair which I will never sit in again. For I am certain that I shall never rise from this bed ..."

"But ...."

"Nobody came to have their pictures painted, and I had no heart to paint any more of myself. Although it may seem impossible, I could no longer get any real pleasure out of it after I had finished the eleventh, and this proves that one can get tired of even the most heavenly beauty ..."

"But ..."

"May I mention that there is a certain sameness in your remarks! Let me finish, and then you can say 'but' as often as you like. I turned from painting people to painting the country. Nine times I painted the view from the back window, and seven times I painted the view from the front window. But could I sell the seven pictures of the view from the front window, or the nine of the view from the back window? I could not. I had little money left, and I decided, after a severe struggle with myself, to forget my soul and paint for money. I determined to draw funny pictures for the newspapers. Remember that I was without hope and almost hungry, and do not think of me too severely ...."

"But ..."

"I know what you are going to say — if I had the soul of a true artist, I would have died rather than do such a thing. But remember that my wife and children were crying for bread — or would have been crying for bread if I had had a wife and children. And was it my fault that I hadn't a wife and little children? So I made thirty or forty funny drawings every day and sent them to the papers. I soon found that selling one's soul for money is not so easy as it sounds. Believe it or not, I got no money.

I just got my drawings back ...."

"But ...."

"You may well ask why they were sent back. I cannot tell you. I tested them on the cat. I had often heard the expression 'funny enough to make a cat laugh,' and so I placed them in a line and carried the cat along in front of them. He laughed until he was sick ... in any case he was sick.

"Then I sank lower and lower. I tried drawing for advertisements. Clothes, pianos, bottles. Immensely tall ladies with foolish smiles. I sent them off by the hundred, and all I received was sample bottle or two, and a sample card of wool. I rather expected to get a sample tall lady with a foolish smile, but probably she got lost in the post ..."

"But ..."

"So I gave up the struggle. My heart was broken, and I determined to take to my bed, never to rise again. You cannot help me, doctor. No skill of yours can help me. I feel it in my bones that I shall never rise from this bed ..."

"And I feel it in my bones that you will," said the stranger, carefully placing Augustus Pokewhistle on the carpet, "because I've come to take it away. I'm from the furniture shop, and the bed isn't paid for."

Test Your English

Add 's' to each of the words in bold type ONLY WHERE NECESSARY.

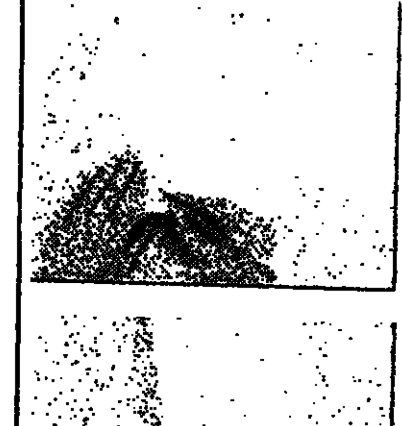
1. I asked him on what **ground** .....s..... he objected to my suggestion.
2. The small girl's strange **behavior** .... astonished everyone.
3. The fire caused a lot of **damage** .... to the building.
4. We're going on **holiday** .... to Switzerland next year.
5. **Nowaday** .... we know a lot more about the dangers of smoking.
6. Has anyone got any **evidence** .... that ghosts exist?
7. Can I leave all my **luggage** .... at the station?
8. This shop now sells **fruit** .... and vegetables as well as cakes.
9. I'm going to the nearest supermarket to do all my **shopping** ....
10. **People** .... come from all over the world to see the village where the Bronte sisters lived.

ANSWER KEY

1 grounds 2 behavior 3 damage 4 holiday. 5 Nowadays 6 evidence 7 luggage 8 fruit 9 shopping 10 People

Stunning Ideas for Making Greeting Cards

WOVEN MARBLE



Cut card 15 by 25cm (6 by 10in). Score and fold 12.5cm (5in) across. On inside of card rule four sets of double lines and one single at each end, the depth of weaving strip. Use an even number of slits to start and finish on the inside. Vary depth for second line of slits. Rule two lines, one with 14 dots 9mm (3/8in) apart, second with 10 dots 16mm (5/8in) apart.

Any unusual papers can be used for weaving through the slits, particularly paper you have marbled yourself. Cut paper strips, ribbon and cord slightly longer than width of card, and carefully cut slits and punch holes.

Still working from the inside weave paper, ribbon and cord and finish with a dab of glue. Trim any overhanging ends. On the front of card, glue a strip of ribbon between the two lines of woven paper.

